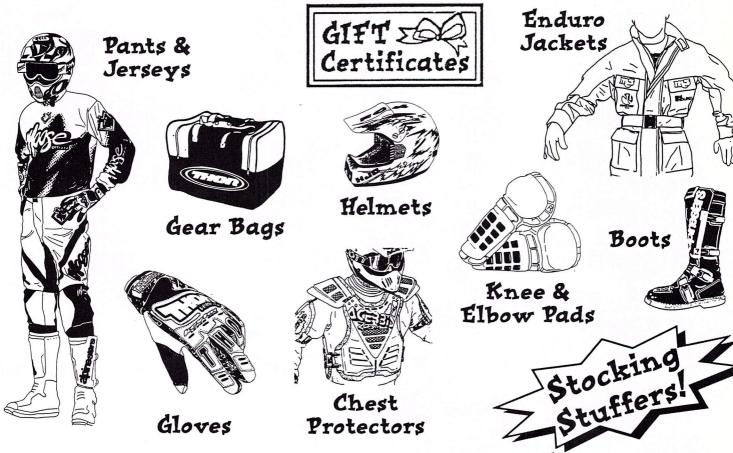




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On the cover: Fred Hoess follows an Italian team rider up a short, slick hill on day one of the Spanish ISDE. Spain was good scenery, really cool trails, odd politics and fast, fast special tests that favored everyone but us. Photo by Paul Clipper.

January 2001 Volume 31 Number 1

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Work at it

Warning: Don't ride where you're not supposed to go. Don't watch Tele Tubbies when nobody's around. Don't check out your own roost. Don't ride nekkid in a rainstorm. Don't ride without a helmet. Don't ride without boots. Don't ride without eye protection. Don't ride without a brain. Don't make noise around the tree huggers. Don't let anybody get you down. Don't call me late for dinner. Don't tie your bike down with clothesline. Don't paint anything chartreuse. Don't eat your salad with a spoon. Don't even give me that look. Don't sit around wondering why. Don't start out with bad directions. Don't ask "How did I get here?" Don't say didjawanna. Don't forget to have fun.

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Address Changes: If you don't want to miss an issue, let us know in advance of your move, so we can update our files before we mail your magazine into the ozone. The P.O. is supposed to forward magazines if you tell them to, but they don't do it in a hurry.

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Contributors: We pay \$30 a page for copy, and \$8 each for black and white photos, but we don't print just anything that comes in. Call us and we'll talk about it.

Yankee Trader: Subscribers can advertise their bikes for sale free in Yankee Trader. Just write it down and mail it in, don't call us with it. Thanks!

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by Paul Clipper

Fool's Luck

t was a good day, just one of those days when certain key things go wrong. Not everything. We've all had days when everything goes wrong; and this wasn't one of them. It was just a day—a whole weekend, actually—when certain pieces of the puzzle were lost.

For example: I was headed for the Cockaponset enduro on Saturday afternoon, stopped along the way and had dinner with a friend in Middletown, Connecticut. Afterwards, went off thinking I was going to drive straight to the strip of motels nearby, and stay at the same place I stayed the last time I was there—which was either last year or the year before, I honestly can't remember (which just might be the root of my problem—bad memory). You know, I was sure I knew exactly where this motel was, but for the life of me I couldn't find it. I would have stopped to asked directions if I knew exactly what I was asking for, but I didn't, and besides the motel was just up here... I knew it. An hour later and about 50 miles of driving I finally gave up and followed freeway offramp signs to a Super 8 I'd never seen before.

Somewhere in there I realized the one key thing that was going to make the enduro a challenge the next day. I had a clear picture in my mind of my enduro computer sitting right on the workbench in the garage, right where I left it. Aside from that I had no watch, no enduro clock, possibly a roll chart holder and nothing else, certainly not an odometer. I am not one to panic and try to rectify a bad memory by going to the all-night drug store and buying a watch and a roll of adding machine paper, etc., so I just heaved a sigh of futility and turned attention to the all-night James Bond special on the tube. Just my luck, it was wooden old Roger Moore, and not my favorite Sean Connery, or even dark horse George Lazenby (On Her Majesty's Secret Service).

Have I ever mentioned that I used to go riding with George? It was back in the '80s, years after his one and only Bond movie. He's a rebel, and probably didn't do more than the one movie because he didn't really get along with the system. When I knew him, we were both living in California and he was making wads of money doing Grey Poupon mustard commercials. He was always amazed that he could get more money from doing a few commercials than he could ever hope to make from Bond, and the work was much easier and left him lots more time for riding. Still, we used to make him say it, especially in front of the dewy-eyed waitresses when we went to dinner. It would make chills go down your spine when he claimed his name was "Bond, James Bond.

Anyhow, getting back to the story, Roger Moore once again put me to sleep, and after a fitful night I found myself suiting up for the enduro with no orienteering gear at all. Nothing makes me feel stupider than going to the line without even an odometer, and I had dutifully wound up the roll chart even though I've long since lost the ability to

see it when I'm riding. I found myself right in front of Rick Claxton, which was good because I could timekeep off of him, and Dave Gunn was right there too.

It was a good ride. There were rocky sections, but between them were short stretches of really cool smooth trail. The coolest thing was that it was finally a dry ride. I'd been riding in mud all summer, I swear it, and it was just so neat to have traction underfoot. I blundered into checks as best I could, but it was plain I wasn't going to be splitting

into the gravel pit "special test" from years past. I knew to get pumped up and ready because the trails were tight and tricky, and I made it through without falling down, and checked out, by now a little closer to my minute.

We had a little asphalt after that, and then cruised off the end of a dead-end road—Wig Hill Road, I won't forget the name. Here was where I came across my only stopper of the day. John Przbylski, a guy who's name I remember typing in the past but whom I'd never met, was splattered across the

"Somewhere in there I realized the one key thing that was going to make the enduro a challenge the next day. I had a clear picture in my mind of my enduro computer sitting right on the workbench in the garage, right where I left it."

any hairs, timekeeping.

So I started getting bored, and feeling guilty about wasting my time enduro riding when I should be taking pictures of all the guys better than me. We came to a spot where the trail ahead doubled back close to us, and I saw minute ten coming the other way. Without much in the way of second thought I pulled off my trail, cut through the woods and whipped out my pocket camera.

I shot some pictures for a while, and then figured what the heck, I might as well jump in behind these guys instead of riding the section they just came out of. I stopped and asked Shawn Mason's brother where Jason was, since Jason Cayer and Hans Neff were basically duking it out for the championship this day. He said Jason was on ten. Within a few miles I was at the gas stop. I filled up, and looked ahead to see that minute 10 was just leaving the known control and heading out for the second loop. I figured it was prime time to follow them, camera in hand, and skipped past the check, missing what I figured was my second check of the day so far.

That was nothing, though. The next check was a check-in just a few miles ahead, and I must have burned it by 14 minutes, easy. My friend Paula was marking cards, and she looked at my number and said "What's up with this...?" I told her I was on my own schedule, it's okay to mark the card I'll make it up later. She looked at me like I had a big, square hole in my head, and marked down the burn.

There wasn't much in the section. I may have stopped and taken a photo or two, but then pressed on. It was all good trail riding, and soon I started recognizing the trail as the section going

trail in the classic "relaxed at the wrong time" position. I stopped to ask if he was all right, and he said "I think I shattered my elbow." Time to park it.

For just about the next hour I tried to make John feel a little better about the impending operation and hospital stay. He was in fairly good spirits and I helped him out to the road, got some help there to take him and his bike, then sent him on his way. I started following the arrows again, but I wasn't much into it any more. Funny how witnessing good injury will slow you down for the day. I just tried to take the mellow line through the woods, cut the course where I felt like it, and eventually ended up coming through the finish check.

I felt good about the ride. It was a beautiful fall day in the woods. I hadn't been riding very fast but it felt good to stop and help somebody else out, so it was all right. As an afterthought, on the way out I turned in my card, telling the scorers "You'll get a pretty good laugh out of this one!" The checkpoint times on the card went from over ten minutes early to probably 58 minutes late, to at least a couple of checks that were missed altogether. But like I said, I was satisfied as I climbed into the van for the four hour drive home.

I thought it was all over, until Monday when Pete Tanner called me up. "Hey, I need your address. They called your name at trophy presentation and I took your trophy for you. Didn't you know you got third A Four Stroke? You must have had a pretty good ride!"

I'd say the only explanation is that the Lord protects fools and children. That, and being one of only three people in the class, helps.

But like I said, it was still a pretty good ride!



Big Enduro, No Enduro?

Another thing to keep in mind when vou're reading this month's story about the Six Days in Spain, is that the deck was further stacked against the Americans by the elimination of most of the terrain tests in the event. Terrain tests, also called "enduro tests" differ from the cross tests in that they're more technical, and Americans typically do much better in the terrain tests than they do in the cross tests. Well, this year each day's trail was only one lap of a giant loop, and on the loop there was one terrain test and three or four cross tests. By the rules, the first lap through on each terrain test is untimed, meaning they could only count a maximum of three terrain tests for the whole event, and then on day four the terrain test was thrown out for reasons none of us understood. That left only two "enduro" tests to be scored for the week, in the biggest enduro of the year. Not much of an advanatge to American riders, that's for sure.

Awards Banquet Coming

The 2000 New England Trail Rider Association's annual awards banquet will be happening this month. It's on Saturday, January 27th, at the same place as last year but with a new name—the Hyatt Regency Newport on Goat Island in Rhode Island. Mention NETRA and you can get a room rate of \$89, and the place is really luxe. It sits right on the Sound—make sure to wear something warm if you plan to go outside in that breeze! The phone number for the hotel is (401)851-1234, and

for banquet tickets call the NETRA office at (860)875-5757.

Screw This, We're Going Riding!

As this is being penned and past-

ed together, we're also packing our bags in anticipation of leaving tomorrow for California. What's the occasion? First chance to ride the new Yamaha YZ250 four-stroke, that's what! Think we want to be here typing right now? Think again, Rinaldo....

The YZ250 in action at the ISDE;

Peter Martin, Aussie Trophy Team.

ECEA Awards Night

The East Coast Enduro Association will be honoring their many riders on February 3, 2001 at the Radisson Hotel Philadelphia Northeast (US Route 1 at Old Lincoln Highway, Trevose, PA). This is also the same place as last year.

The ECEA will have three rooms devoted to display area and plenty of camaraderie. Set-up time for the display area is 11:00 a.m. and the displays open officially at 3:00, but by past experience the party starts whenever you get there. There's a good deal available for room and banquet tickets, the Preferred Package rate of \$140 inclusive. The package price includes an overnight room for two people for one night, banquet dinner for two on Saturday 2/3/01 and breakfast for two on Sunday 2/4/01. Hotel check-in time is 3:00 p.m., but by past experience they'll give out rooms as they're ready. Call the hotel at 215-638-8300 to make your reservation.

Election? What Election?

Also as this is being written, it is the last week in November and we still don't have a president elected. Apparently George W. Bush has been declared the winner of Florida and its 25 Electoral votes, but Albert Gore is still protesting the count, and pledges to go on forcing recounts until he gets the count he wants. Okay. Personally, I believe that George W. doesn't have much to offer, but I look at Gore as the continuation and worse-ifving of Clinton's turn-public-land-into-wilderness policies. He speaks on TV with a condescending "I know you're all idiots, but..." look on his face, and squeals mightily every time someone else declares W. the winner. He cries of collusion, of vote-fraud, but you know, I can hardly believe it when he's speaking from an administration that has pulled every string there is to get him as far as he's gone. I have no overt beliefs; I am neither political

Republican nor Democrat, but Al Gore looks like a sore loser, and I can't imagine what his presidency will be like if he actually fights his way into office. (unsolicited political opinion by the Bossman).



Marshall Rose has his tape of the 2000 Six Days in Spain available, and it's in keeping with his past standards—in other words, it's a lot of tape. 15 hours, to be precise, and for a set of these tapes he wants \$65. It is all stream-of-consciousness footage, Marshall seems to turn the video camera on in the morning and not shut it off until it gets too dark to film. Well, not really, but you'll get a truer Six Days experience from his tapes than anything us lowly magazines can print. He also has ISDEs from Tulsa '94 all the way up to the present, for the same

NETRA Trails Summary

The following is a summary of the trail access situation in New England, put together by NETRA's vice president Mike Stone and president Bill Haas. All Northeastern riders should be aware of what's going on here, and please pledge some of your time this new year to help, or help fund trail access efforts in New England and elsewhere.

We have traditionally had year-round access to trails in nine state forests in Massachusetts. In 1996, the Board of Environmental Management tried to ban us from all the state forests except by special event permit. After much lobbying by NETRA and with help from the AMA, this board voted to limit our use to seven forests from May 1 to November 1 if we signed agreements to perform trail maintenance. NETRA and its local clubs (Greylock Riders, Hoosac Valley MC, Berkshire Trail Riders, Pathfinders) and ATV and snowmobile clubs formed the Berkshire Trails Council which signed agreements for the five forests in western Mass. King Philip Trail Riders and Pilgrim Sands MC signed for the two forests in eastern Mass. We have fulfilled all our requirements for these agreements for the past four years, providing 9000 documented man-hours of volunteer labor.

Last year we successfully lobbied the DEM to extend the riding season to the last Sunday in November. We have been fighting aggressively to reopen Miles Standish S.F. in eastern Mass. The DEM commissioned a study on the issue by Epsilon Consulting this year which recommended a limited area in the forest for ORV trails.

Route-sheeted trail loops which also use trails outside the state forests tie many of these forest trails together in western Mass. The Tri-State Riders also maintain a trail loop in central Mass which does not use state forest land.

Although this state forest program has been successful, we are pushing the limits of volunteer labor. Trail conditions are far better than they were before the program, but there is more that should be done. Working in conjunction with the Snowmobile Assn. of Mass and the ATV clubs, NETRA has hired lobbyist Shawn Sheehy to introduce a bill in the state legislature which would create a VAST-like system for ORVs in Massachusetts. VAST is the Vermont snowmobile association which has put together a phenomenal trail system using a private/state partnership. Funding for this ORV trail system would come from state gas taxes, registration fees, and trail maintenance passes which would be required to ride on the trails.

In Connecticut, the Pathfinders maintain a twelve mile loop at the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' Thomaston Dam, open six months per year. Several clubs, particularly the Central Cycle Club, maintain the few miles of ORV trails in Pachaug State Forest as part of a trail loop for street-registered trail bikes. These are the only public areas open for recreational ORV use in the state. Other trails are maintained by Salmon River County Riders and Connecticut Ramblers for special permit events.

NETRA is working with the CT Motorsports Business Assn to pressure the state to open ORV trails in a state forest. CT state law mandates that the DEP provide ORV trails and the state is in violation of this law. We have pressured the DEP to commission two studies in the past year. One recommended an ORV trail loop in Cockaponsett State Forest. The second study, which included two meetings between the CT DEP and Mass DEM to learn about the Mass program, is still pending. We will be meeting with the Governor's office and State Senator Aniskovitch in December.

In Rhode Island, there are no public riding areas except for special permit events. Last year, the state made the permit process much more restrictive. The Rhody Rovers have been trying to get the state to approve a trail loop which would tie into Connecticut's Pachaug loop. The DEP has not been cooperating and the matter is currently in court.

NETRA and the Pathfinders maintain two trail loops for street-registered trail bikes in Vermont which use jeep trails, snowmobile and other private trails, and a small section of state forest trail. There are many additional jeep trails and private trails in the state, and a 12 mile winter-only ATV trail, but no other public riding areas. A new group, not affiliated with NETRA at this time, VASA, has been meeting with VAST officials and others in an attempt to put together an ORV trail system in VT.

There are five state forests in New Hampshire with ORV trails. MVTR, Montshire Trail Riders, and Norumbega Trail Riders maintain trails in New Hampshire, and the state Director of ORV Safety is an enthusiastic NETRA member.

There are many trails in northern Maine, particularly on paper and lumber company land, but the long distances from population centers of New England mean they get little use except by snowmobilers.

Event-wise, NETRA sanctions an 11 event enduro series, a 16 race hare scrambles series, an 11 event recreational turkey run series, a 16 race junior enduro series, and several Nervous Novice parent-child rides and Toys for Tots rides.

Mike Stone VP, NETRA; CLO, NETRA; Secretary, Berkshire Trails Council; VP, Pathfinders MC of CT price, and some of the Northern California National Hare Scrambles. Call him at (510)223-5764, or check him out at www.offroadrider.com/x-countryvideos. His e-mail address is worldguy00@aol.com.

Cover Boy Makes Good

It came to our attention that former Trail Rider cover model Jimmy Lewis won the Dubai Rally overall this past fall, and as such is making the big bucks and living the high life of an international rally star (picture Austin Powers with a gruff). Actually, Jimmy still works his day job as off-road editor for Cycle



Jimmy Lewis (up high, of course) and teammate Nani Roma playing Crusty Demons of Dubai.

World magazine, and has previously gained fame from other top rally finishes, including a podium at the Paris-Dakar rally, top finishes in Baja and the Nevada Rally, and racing Baja on an XR100, or something like that. We know he consciously monitors his blood-alcohol level at all times, to remain at the peak of fitness, and that he is sponsored by BMW and is the only American human to have ridden the BMW R900RR, the 90 horsepower boxer flat twin that he won Dubai on. And that's about all we know about the

Campbell Gets On It

Speaking of rallies, the Paris-Dakar rally is coming up quickly, and Jimmy Lewis is getting ready for that right now. But in other news, Honda factory long-distance star Johnny Campbell has signed up for the event, and will be riding this year on a factory prepared Honda XR650R. Johnny has won Baja, won the Nevada Rally, and will certainly do well in Dakar, and we wish him good luck.

Videos Not Available

We told you back in the October issue about some controversial videos you could order, titled For the Good of All, and Vanishing Freedom I and II. We ordered the tapes, and were disappointed to receive just For the Good of All and a note saying that . Vanishing Freedom wasn't available any more. Not available? It's a videotape, it could go on being duplicated forever. Always the conspiracy theorists, we put in a call to the distributors, the American Land Rights Association, and they told us that Fox News, the creators of the Vanishing Freedom documentaries contacted ALRA and told them to stop distributing the tapes. Sound like freedom of speech being suppressed to you? Maybe we can get a copy from Fox News? Tell you what, here's their phone number-888-443-6988, toll free-and if you were hoping to get a copy of the tape why don't you call them and ask them why you can't get it any more.

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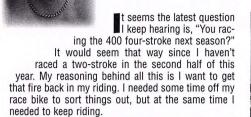








What Now?



The four-stroke allows me to do this. The bike is so easy to ride, it doesn't take a lot of effort to handle. And it's different. What I mean by different is the power comes on softer and smoother than my firebreathing 250. It is a little heavier, which takes a little different riding style to maneuver. I first started riding it like my 250, and boy did I wear myself out. It doesn't need to be thrown around and have the weight work against you. To ride it correctly, it almost seems you need to slow everything down. Don't accelerate as hard, clutch as much and brake nearly as hard you do on a 250. When you get this dialed in, it seems you and the bike are working less and going just as fast, if not faster. The four-stroke is fun for everything—trail riding, racing or goofing off.

I tried two of them this year. Early in the season I played around with a 400SX in a couple of the GNCCs. The SX is a kick-start model, so I had to learn how to fire it up fast on the line, but once I got that worked out, it was cake. I could get starts just as good as my



250 on that bike, and it never took more than a kick or two to get it fired if I stalled it. I was really stoked on that bike, but I had to give it back so I could concentrate on riding my 250 for the last of the national enduros. Bummer!

I didn't want to race the electric-start E/XC four-stroke because I was scared of the extra weight, and I thought it would slow me down. But after I clinched the enduro title KTM told me they had a 2001 400E/XC I could ride if I wanted. I can't have the SX back? Sure, I want! I'll tell you what, one ride on the E/XC and I was sold. There isn't anything in the world that com-

pares with that electric button. The thing that got me was realizing I could lock the 'stroke up, stall it out, and re-start it even faster than my 250, just by hitting that button! No way! It's like cheating! I liked it so much I rode it in the very last national, and I won on it. Pretty good for a training bike!

By riding the 'stroke, I've still kept in shape, but it still feels like I have had some time off. And just recently, I got back that fire I wanted. Now I can't wait to ride my 250. Everything feels new again. With the new feeling comes a new attitude. So, to answer everyone's question on whether I will race a four-stroke next year—probably not. As much fun, and as easy to ride as the four-stroke may be, I'm more comfortable on my 250 in all sorts of conditions. I would have to start all over again, on how a four-stroke would work and react in different types of conditions, at all the different races across the country. I thought about it, and whether I race in California at a national enduro or in South Jersey at a local hare scramble, I feel more confident on a 250.

I can't wait until 2001 starts up. Spend the first couple months out west, hitting a few of the new hare scramble series they have starting up. Then the first two national enduros, then head back east to Florida to give a go at the first rounds of the GNCC series and two more enduros in Georgia and Louisiana. Man...life is GOOD!

-Junior

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The Salmon River County Riders cook up a new course and the championship-deciding points

Round 8. Chester, CT 10/15/00

he chase for the 2000 NETRA Enduro Crown has been a tight one. Halfway through the season, there were no fewer than five riders who were in reach of the brass ring. As the season wore on, three riders rose to the top and fought it out to the end. While KTM, Moose, Razee-sponsored teammates Hans Neff and Jason Cayer battled it out, Yamaha, Sinisalo, Valley Motorsports-backed Jerry Madore played the spoiler all season long.

The penultimate round of the series would serve as a practical winner-take-all, since both Neff and Cayer would be earning their required work credits at the final round. Coming into the Cockaponset, Neff held a fair lead over Cayer and Madore, but take off the one "throw-away" score, and Neff and Cayer were both tied at 119 points while Madore trailed closely with 110.

The SRCR traditionally host an enjoyable event. The layout of their trails forces them to run many short sections, with plenty of resets. Since the terrain is relatively easy in comparison to other NETRA events, this layout makes for low scores. Each section must be flawlessly executed if one expects to even take a class win, never mind having a shot at the overall win. Luckily, the weather cooperated in setting the stage for the battleground, as forecasted showers held off all day long.

Hans Neff did not let the pressure of defending his number one plate get in the way of what he wanted to accomplish today. He rose to the occasion and set the fastest time in almost every one of the timed sections.

Jerry Madore was close in the points, but needed more wins earlier in the year to get the title.

The first section proved to be a real drag race. Neff led the way through one of the day's longer trails, dropping only one point. KTM/Razee/Moose teammates Caver and Peter Tanner joined him with one each, as well as CRE/E-Line, Razee, Moose rider Raffi Peterson, and Cycles 128/Moose's Eric McEachern.

In the second timed section, Neff broke away and started to build a lead that would prove insurmountable. He again dropped only one point in the section, while the rest of the AA and faster A riders dropped two. At the official gas stop, Neff's two-point score was unmatched.

The day's second loop brought some technical trail into the mix. Hans roosted his KTM 250 to the only



Jason Cayer had to beat Neff to stay in the points, but he came up short by the end of the day.



Hans Neff took the win and the season at the Cockaponset. (File photo by Cheri Alix).

one-point score at check 6. Losing only 1:51, he was followed by Cayer (2:17), Madore (2:20), and McEachern (2:20). In the short section that followed, Neff again dropped only a single point. Cayer, Madore, Peterson, Tanner and McEachern also each cruised in with one apiece.

Two of the day's longer sections followed, the second being a loop through the rock-strewn Cockaponset State Forest. 2-2 proved to be the scores to beat. Neff, Madore, G&G Cycles/MSRbacked Rick Claxton, Cayer and Tanner all swept through with 2-2

				tillough with 2-2.			
Cockaponset Enduro		3. Bill Drummey	Hon	B Four Stroke		C Four Stroke	
Overall High Point		A Four Stroke		1. John Considine	Yam	1. Greg Smith	Hon
Hans Neff	KTM	1. Jim Simcock	Yam	2. Ken Hawk	Hon	2. Daniel Salvidio	Suz
A High Point		2. Jim Green	Suz	3. Dave Gargiulo	Suz	3. David Seften	Kaw
Eric McEachern	Hon	A Veteran		B Veteran		C Veteran	
B High Point		1. Paul Courville	Yam	1. Alan Ross	Hon	1. Roger Kent	KTM
Dan Collins	KTM	2. Dave Kelley	Hon	2. Jeff Bertocchi		2. Ricky Jaros	KTM
C High Point		3. Mike Kelley	Hon	3. Paul Darezzo	Hon	3. Peter Kates	Yam
Stephen Tanzella	KTM	A Senior		B Senior		C Senior	
AA		1. Steve Michalski	KTM	1. Bob Stadler	Kaw	1. Mike Ceravolo	
1. Jason Cayer	KTM	2. Duncan Broach	KTM	2. Bob Kamay	Hus	2. Tom Hall	KTM
2. Jerry Madore	Yam	3. Glenn Dougherty	KTM	3. Dewey Heichel	Suz	3. Norm Noble	KTM
3. Rick Claxton	CRE	B Bantam		C Bantam		Super Senior	
A Bantam		1. Jeff Grant	Kaw	1. Scott Pakenham	KTM	1. Bill Johnson	Hon
1. Kevin Howley	KTM	2. Paul Smith	KTM	2. Russell Cone	Suz	2. Paul Lussier	KTM
2. Jerry Randall	Yam	3. Mark Beauregard	Yam	3. Scott Evans	Kaw	3. Dave Matheson	
3. Dave Harris	KTM	B Light		C Light		Masters	
A Light		1. Fran Gaulin	KTM	1. Dean Huff	Suz	1. Joe Curti	Hon
1. Mike Nash	CRE	2. Don Quinn	Kaw	2. Jeff Goscenshi	Yam	2. Tom Farley	CRE
2. Tim Baker	KTM	3. Pete Belanger	KTM	3. Wally Lewis	Suz	Women	
3. Scott Hoginski	Hon	B Heavy		C Heavy		1. Stacey Edwards	Hon
A Heavy		1. Doug Simone	KTM	1. Alex Beldotti	KTM	2. Lynne Singer	KTM
1. Anthony Geraci	KTM	2. Steve Sheppard	KTM	2. Carmen Martone	KTM	3. Bev Simcock	Yam
2. Austin Jalbert	Hon	3. Dave McKosky		3. David Galisewski	KTM		



Rick Claxton was a contender all year, finished the Cockaponset in fourth place overall.

As the course wound its way back to the start, some of the day's earlier trails were traveled in reverse. Most riders were able to cruise through the sections with a 1-0 score through checks thirteen and fourteen. The final section, however, proved to be a bit more challenging.

Back-to-back hills consisting of steep, slick, loose rock caused most riders fits. Those fortunate enough to be on earlier rows made it up with only a modest amount of trouble. However, by the time the bulk of the riders arrived at the base of the hill, there should have been a "take a number" machine, like one you'd see at the deli counter. People were literally lined up at the bottom, waiting for their turn to make a run at it.

If you dared to create your own line up the hill. chances are you would find yourself hopelessly stuck. or at best, rolling back down to wait in line. If you were lucky enough to make it up the first one, imagine the disappointment to find another hill very similar to it as you crested the top. The hills were no match for Hans. He easily blasted up them, losing only 1:48. Cayer was the only other rider to sneak in under the two-minute mark at 1:56.

After tallying up the scores, Hans Neff sewed-up his second consecutive NETRA Enduro Grand Championship with a score of ten points. Caver kept him honest until the end, losing only twelve points on the day. Eric McEachern's thirteen-point score was good enough for A High Point and third overall. Jerry Madore's fourteen left him sitting in third AA and fourth overall.

Dan Collins roosted his KTM to a twenty-two. narrowly edging out Jeff Grant for the B High Point. Stephen Tanzella took home the big C High Point trophy with his fifty-one. Bill Johnson chalked up another win in the Super Senior class, and Joe Curti stole a win in the Masters class. Stacey Edwards continued her winning ways in the Women's class, by virtue of her making it the farthest (check 8).

With one round remaining, the season has been unofficially wrapped up-with respect to the overall championship. Congratulations to Hans Neff and all of his sponsors for putting together a fine effort this season. While the overall championship may have been decided one round early, there are still many individual class championships to be decided. Stay tuned to these pages to find out how the rest unfolds at the Black & Blue enduro on November 5.



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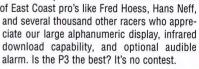
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KNOWN CONTROL

Jack Lafferty Jr. wraps up his ninth championship

Pine Barons Clock Run Round #18, Chatsworth, NJ 10/8/00

red Hoess picked up his eighth ECEA enduro overall win for the season, completing a sandy Pine Barons Clock Run at ten points down. The Husqvarna USA, Dunlop, Answer, Arai, Scott, Spectro, WER, Works Connection, Motion Pro, Pirie Composites, Fredette Racing, FMF-sponsored Hoess fell behind early, but came back strong in the day's final test, earning a one point victory over runner-up Jack Lafferty, Jr. Jack Jr., sponsored by Bromley Suzuki, successfully campaigned an RM250 for a change, and his second overall seeding putting him in the driver's seat to earn the series championship, amazingly, his ninth. A trio of 12 point cards vied for the final podium position. KDX rider John Robbins (Kaw) took third overall and earned the High Point A trophy in the process, edging out Super Senior rider Bruce Dengler (Hon) and YZ250 pilot Jamie Wright (Yam) on emergency points. Dengler and Wright finished fourth and fifth overall, respectively, each taking home first place trophies in their respective classes (A Super Senior and A250).

The Pine Barons event was again staged from the New Jersey ORV park in Chatsworth, New Discrete Parks of the New Jersey. Ambient conditions found cool temperatures, clear and crisp in the morning and overcast in the afternoon. The club had laid out a three loop course with two remote gas breaks, located at the Caranza Monument. The race was run entirely at 24MPH except for a short four tenths with a one MPH



Craig Shenigo gave Lafferty the most trouble this season, and missed the title by only a few points.



Don't look for him in the Senior class: Jack Lafferty Jr. is the Energizer Bunny of the ECEA, and a nine-time champion.

speed average that provided time for the second gas stop. The course was to contain three special tests, the first right off start on the grounds of the ORV park trail. Unfortunately, spotty arrowing combined with the maze of trails within the park contributed to a great number of riders becoming lost within the section, eventually precipitating its disqualification.

Hoess had trouble in the long morning test, falling into a one point hole early, in what was sure to be a tightly scored contest. Jack Jr. set the benchmark coming out of that section, dropping five to the sixes carded by Hoess, Robbins, Wright and Dengler.

Only a handful of riders were caught hot in the midloop timekeeping check, none of the expected front runners. In the day's final section, Hoess turned on the jets, going 1-3 in back-to-back checks, trailed by the 2-4 scores carded by Lafferty, Robbins, et. al. And that was all she wrote, Hoess taking home top honors again.

Other top finishers on the day include the 14 point cards turned in by Craig Shenigo, Mark Uth, Steve Larkin and Mike Bradway, who finished in the sixth through ninth overall seeds, respectively. Uth and Larkin earned first place trophies in their respective classes (A Senior, A Veteran) while Steve Pfeffer's (Kaw) 15 point finish rounded out the top ten overall. Mike Melniczuk (KTM) and Jason Spayde (Hon) claimed the High Point honors in the B and C classes, respectively.

With one round remaining, the above results set the stage for a showdown at the enduro series finale in Delaware. Jack Lafferty, Jr. appears firmly in the driver's seat to earn his ninth ECEA Enduro Championship, although the standings are somewhat clouded due to an as of yet officially unresolved issue regarding Craig Shenigo's disqualification at the Barbed Wire Enduro. By our best reckoning, it seems that should the disqualification stand (which appears unlikely), Jack leads the points race over Shenigo and Fred Hoess with 191 points to Hoess's 176 and Shenigo's 168. (accounting for three throw-aways). However, all indications are that Shenigo's finish, first overall at STER will be reinstated, cutting Jack's lead over Shenigo to ten, 190 to 180 (unofficially, of course). Hoess's tally wouldn't change, and it doesn't matter anyhow, as he won't be able to contest Delaware due to his selection to race on the U.S. ISDE Trophy Team in Spain. Nonetheless, he had a pretty amazing season, entering a mere nine enduros, winning eight of them, and placing second in the other. Aaron Kopp was the only rider to beat Hoess on the enduro field (at Moonshine) over the course of the season.

Of course, we had to wait three weeks to see how this donnybrook might unfold. All you have to do is read our Delaware Enduro report.

Delaware EnduroRound #19, Delaware City, DE 10/29

Going into this race, the series finale, the ECEA championship was still up for grabs. Jack Lafferty led, trailed by Craig Shenigo and Fred Hoess. Hoess, the defending champ, wasn't doing much defending this year, and would be away for Delaware anyway, riding at the ISDE in Spain. Shenigo on the other hand, was ready to rumble, albeit at a bit of a long shot, trailing by 10 points by our unofficial tally. This meant that he had to do well and Jack not. Conversely, Jack could sew it up with a fourth place or better finish, or if Shenigo finished at fifth overall or worse.

Add to all this mix the fact that top riders seem to come out of the woodwork for the Delaware Enduro, national or not. Among this year's interlopers were former ECEA champs Mike Lafferty (KTM), Bill Atkinson (KTM) and Kevin Bennett (Hon), each of whom was gunning for the Grand Champ honors. Not surprisingly, it was the defending National Enduro Champ Mike Lafferty who took home the top prize, carving out a three point victory over runner-up Bennett, 16 to 19. Atkinson rounded out the podium at 21 points down, while Bob Bennett (Hon) and Jack Lafferty (Suz) put up 23 point cards. Bob Bennett got the nod to fill the fourth overall seed while Jack Jr. made it official, his fifth place finish sufficient to secure for him the series championship. Unfortunately, prior to the deadline for this report the



Fred Hoess won the overall at Pine Barons, and skipped Delaware for the ISDE.

sponsoring club had yet to make available complete results needed to fully clarify the picture, so we still don't know the full order in which things unfolded or how close it really was.

We do know this though—this was the most fun we've had at a DER enduro in many years. Why? Well, first of all there was absolutely gorgeous weather for the day, cool but not cold, breezy, under clear skies. Just a great day for riding. Sure, the course

Pine Barons Clock I	Run	4. Jeff Pritchard	KTM 19	4. Raymond Strohm	Kaw 28
Grand Champion		5. James Landvater	KTM 21	5. Brandon Sigety	Kaw 29
Fred Hoess	Hus 10	A-Four Stroke	KIWI ZI	B-250	Naw 25
High Point A	1100 10	1. Scott Devecchio	Yam 16	1. James Earley, Jr	Kaw 21
John Robbins	Kaw 12	2. Richard Shirk, Jr	Yam 17	2. Joseph Palecki	Yam 23
High Point B		3. Leonard Baltimore	MARKET WILLIAM CONTROL OF	3. Philip Uhland	Hon 23
Michael Melniczuk	KTM 19	4. Richard Heins	Suz 21	4. Steve Saubier	KTM 25
High Point C	10	5. Rob Comber	Yam 21	5. Scott Stryker	Kaw 26
Jason Spayde	Hon 31	A-Veteran	1411121	B-Open	
A-A		1. Steven Larkin	Yam 14	1. Robert Limmer	KTM 22
1. Jack Lafferty, Jr	Suz 11	2. Ken Law	KTM 16	2. Jim Falconiero	Hon 27
2. Craig Shenigo	KTM 14	3. Todd Fenton	KTM 16	3. Paul Bicsak	Suz 29
3. Mike Mchale	KTM 16	4. John Burgand	KTM 18	4. Scott A. Dagrosa	KTM 30
A-125		5. Michael Dolecek	19	5. Eric Aaroe	KTM 33
1. Brian Carden	Suz 17	A-Senior		B-Four Stroke	
2. Mike Sigety	Suz 17	1. Mark Uth	Hus 14	1. James Tevis	Hon 25
3. Daniel Stoppi, Jr	Yam 18	2. James Gunselman	Yam 17	2. Chris Brown	Hon 26
4. Jeffrey Botsford	Yam 21	3. Clifford Tenney	KTM 18	3. James Paul	Yam 28
5. M Dean Spencer	Hus 22	4. Scott Snyder	Yam 18	4. Carl Wilson	Yam 36
A-200		5. Wayne Fontanazza	Yam 20	5. Paul Dengler, Jr	Suz 41
1. Robert Mohn	Kaw 17	A-Super Senior		B-Veteran	
2. Ed Hamilton	KTM 17	1. Bruce Dengler	Hus 12	1. Dewitt Harrell	KTM 20
3. Bill Gilbert	Kaw 18	2. Jack Lafferty, Sr	KTM 27	2. Marco Dottavio	Hon 22
4. Paul Bitting	Kaw 19	3. Peter Parlett	Hon 27	3. Mike Muckelston	Kaw 27
5. Mike Tavani	Gas 19	4. Richard Tompkins	KTM 28	4. Michael Biliunas	Kaw 28
A-250		5. Richard Trader	KTM 30	5. Tony Costanzi	Kaw 30
1. Jamie Wright	Yam 12	B-125		B-Senior	
2. Michael Bradway	Yam 14	1. Joe Cartwright	Hon 20	1. George Bressler	KTM 31
3. Steve Pfeffer	Kaw 15	2. Alan Bopp	Hus 25	2. Mark Trowbridge	KTM 31
4. Dale Sweigart	Yam 16	3. Donald Haught	KTM 27	3. Greg Grzybowski	KTM 32
5. Phil Cassot	Hon 19	4. Steve Brown	Yam 27	4. Jay Ringler	Hon 39
A-Open		B-200		5. John Schoener	Hon 40
1. Stacey Clark	Yam 16	1. Sean Kinley	Gas 23	B-Super Senior	
2. Steve Guers	KTM 17	2. Frank Wilson	KTM 26	1. Jack Lurtzema	KTM 36
3. Mike Beeler	KTM 18	3. David Bader	Kaw 26	2. Tim Stibitz	Kaw 67

er a friendlier time schedule with generous planned breaks kept riders of all skill levels from falling hopelessly behind (as is the norm). Trailboss Charlie Stapleford has promised this in the past, and this time (no doubt against all his better judgement) he delivered on his promise in spades. Of course, had it rained, all bets would have been off.

3. Roy Howard

2. Nick Chadick

4. Tom Giasalle

2. Michael Webb

3. Jamison Smith 4. Wayne Berry

2. Robert Sisco

C-Four Stroke

C-Veteran

Women 1. June Van Driel

Masters

1. Dan Green 2. Bill Borris

3. John Frayne

4. Rob Stewart

2. Merle Compton

1. Ray Mcaloon

2. Dan Van Driel

3. Bob Schmidt

3. John Whitaker

4. Larry Johnston, JrKTM 43 5. Joseph Caudell

1. Geoff Christmas Yam 36 2. Michael Faulkner Suz 64

3. John Ennis

C-200

C-250 1. Paul Tillberg

C-Open 1. Ralph Elzarka

4. John Melniczuk Jr KTM 73

1. David Vanaltvorst Yam 44

Yam 70

Kaw 67

Gas 138

Kaw 143

KTM 33

Hon 53

KTM 71

KTM 38

Gas 39

KTM 42

KTM 49

Yam 34

KTM 53

Yam 70

Yam 79

KTM 47

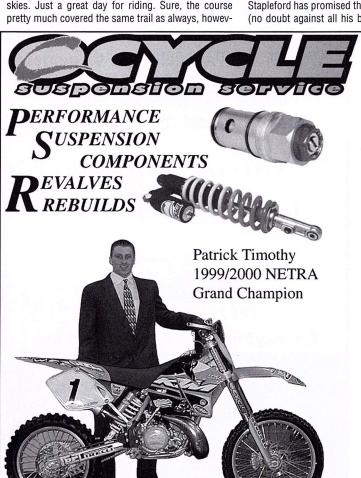
KTM 56

KTM 37

KTM 55

KTM 76

Turnout was robust and for the most part, the event came off with hardly a hitch. The one snafu (unfortunately a big one at that) was that some miscommuni-



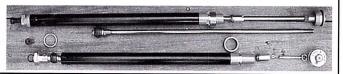
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cation between the club and the National Guard Armory, from which the event is run, resulted in the club being unable to use the cozy confines of the Armory building located adjacent to the start and parking area. Fortunately, through some quick scrambling on the part of the club, they were able to secure the use of the Delaware City Fire House for sign-up and post race festivities. The only drawback was that this facility was remotely located, a mile or so from the start area itself and the busy site of an open house that was somehow shoe horned in between enduro signup and results.

However, out on the trail things couldn't have been better. Anyone who's ridden Delaware before would have surely recognized much familiar trail, including the characteristic phragmitis fields and sluice, which was run upstream for the first time in several years. With the general lack of rain over the past couple of months, the potentially slimy Delaware soil was firm and tacky, even dusty in places. One real oddball stunt that Charlie pulled was throwing in a short section run at a miniscule 1/2 mile per hour speed average, which had riders concurrently running for their ECEA rule books and computer programming guides. While we're still not convinced that this was completely kosher, at least there were no check placement shenanigans associated with the weird speed, and subsequently no protests afterward.

Other top finishers included Optimum Power Technologies, KCR Racing, Dunlop, Moose, Scott, Acerbis, Boyesen Engineering, Twin Air, White Brothers, Works Enduro Rider, CTI, Cycra, Alpinestars, ELF, Works Connection, N-Style, IMS, Renthal-sponsored Aaron Kopp (Suz) who claimed the High Point A trophy on the merit of a 24 point card. A trio of riders squared off for High Point B hon-

Delaware Enduro		4. Douglas Groff	33	B 250		3. Ed Delawski	82
Unofficial Results		5. Scott Devecchio	36	1. Vance Draghi	35	4. Mike Sinclair	95
Grand Champion		A Open		2. Michael Melniczuk	37	5. Kyle Rehatchek	98
Michael Lafferty	16	1. Steve Guers	29	3. Jim King	43	C 250	
Hi-Point A		2. Jeff Pritchard	29	4. Jesse Wilson	48	1. Preston Carden	54
Aaron Kopp	24	3. Allen Switzer	29	5. Matt Louderback	52	2. Jamison Smith	66
Hi-Point B		4. Dave Gunn	30	B Four Stroke		3. Chris Reiner	68
Paul Bicsak	35	5. Stacey Clark	33	1. James Powl	42	4. Ted Marriner	75
High Point C		A Senior		. 2. Adam Garofano	43	5. Matthew Geese	78
John Veres	46	1. Philip Carlin	28	3. David Baldwin	46	C Four Stroke	
AA		2. Scott Snyder	31	4. Carl Wilson	56	1. John Veres	46
1. Kevin Bennett	19	3. Cliff Tenney	33	B Open		2. Daniel Drew	50
2. Bill Atkinson	21	4. Wayne Fontanazza	35	1. Scott Tellone	46	3. Peter Semenach	57
3. Bob Bennett	23	5. Mark Uth	37	2. Jerry Cerio	47	4. Brian Horsey	60
4. Jack Lafferty	23	A Super Senior		3. Walter Whildin	51	5. Geoff Christmas	60
5. Craig Shenigo	24	1. Thomas Marsh	34	4. Bill Horseman	52	C Open	
A 125		2. Scott Wolfersberger	43	5. Tom Blasscyk	60	1. Glenn Keesey	54
1. Mike Berenbak	29	3. Jack Lafferty	53	B Senior		2. Scott McDonnell	58
2. Bob Solomon	30	4. George Clickner	63	1. Tom Glennon	40	3. Larry Johnston	61
3. Mike Sigety	31	5. Richard Tompkins	66	2. Tony Rosselli	44	4. Paul Casterlin	64
4. Gerry Kitts	43	A Veteran		3. Tom Schanne	49	5. John Kraft	64
5. Pat Émmons	44	1. Steve Larkin	27	4. Bill Thackrah	51	C Veteran	
A 200		2. James Gunselman	27	5. Robert Galyon	52	1. Ralph Kline	55
1. Jeffrey Johns	29	3. John Burgard	29	B Super Senior		2. Jes Stith	59
2. Glen Scherer	30	4. James McCommon	32	Kevin Littleford	90	3. Gary Clark	66
3. Robert Mohn	33	5. Todd Fenton	35	2. Donald Lewis	109	4. Chris Gaines	69
4. Dave Mealing	38	B 125		3. Roy Howard	178	5. William Cruse	69
5. Chance Baker	43	1. Allen Frei	35	4. Brad Schwab	253	Masters	
A 250		2. Joe Cartwright	36	5. Robert Hartman	256	1. Robert Lapinski	53
1. Mike Bradway	26	3. Dave Glenn	46	B Veteran		2. Joe Curti	65
2. Steven Pfeffer	27	4. Brian Glenn	50	1. Dewitt Harrell	39	3. Ken Schaefer	77
3. Jamie Wright	28	5. Alan Bopp	50	2. Mike Kowalsky	42	4. Stephen Wagner	105
4. Richard Shirk	28	B 200		3. Marco D'Otavio	43	5. Ed Baker	136
5. Dale Sweigart	30	1. Sean Kinley	46	4. Todd Temple	44	Women	
A Four Stroke		2. Brandon Sigety	49	5. Bill Gilmore	48	1. Kathi Campbell	58
1. Troy Coopersmith	31	3. Mark Delong	51	C 200		2. June Van Driel	82
2. Dan Sharpless	32	4. Roy Harrell	53	1. Jeff Weiss	59	3. Merle Compton	90
3. Steve Chapkovich	33	5. Douglas Allen	54	2. Chris Petrella	77	4. Evelyn Sullivan	140

ors, Paul Bicsak edging out the 35 point cards of Allen Frei and Vance Draghi on emergency points. In novice

class action, John Veres turned in a 46 score to earn the High Point C prize. $\ensuremath{ \bullet }$



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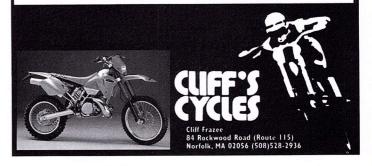


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LUMMIS MILL

One race closer for Bennett

Round #8, Cedarville, NJ 10/15

ewly crowned National Enduro Champ Mike Lafferty romped on his home turf, winning handily at the Lummis Mill hare scrambles. The KTM factory sponsored rider was the only competitor to complete seven trips around the 7.2 mile CDR course during the race's requisite two hour duration. All other top finishers were cut off after six laps, including NETRA hare scrambles hotshoes Josh McLevy (KTM) and Luke McNeil (Yam), who had journeyed south for a change of pace. The former New England champions finished second and fourth overall respectively, taking advantage of a slew of DNFs among top ECEA HS series regulars. Also benefiting was Kevin Bennett (Hon), who improved his chances for a series title by finishing third overall, best among those riders vying for the series championship.

Weather-wise, it was a nice day, perhaps a little on the warm side (upper 60s) with a mix of clouds and sun. Showers threatened at times, but never delivered, permitting a dry course to become a bit dusty in places. The course is run through open pine and deciduous forest, club officials noting that efforts were made to "open up" the trail for easier dicing and passing. Nonetheless, trail sections run through tall stands of mountain laurel were still tight by most standards and served to keep speeds down while sawing your way through them. The course was devoid of water obstacles of any consequence, all in all, a prototypical hare scrambles loop. The club had planned a two event card for the day in which youth classes and women were run in the morning over a shortened 3.5 mile circuit while all amateur classes (A, B and C) were run concurrently in a main event that was to start at noon.

Unfortunately, an unscheduled restart resulted in a delay of more than an hour. During the first lap around the course, a sizeable number of riders from later rows apparently blew a turn and re-entered the course not only in front of the lead row, but headed in the wrong direction as well! Luckily no one was injured during the ensuing melee, however, this confusion precipitated the restart and the additional lap ridden may have added to the woes of several top riders who later DNFed.

So, after completing their first lap around the course riders lined up and did it again. Richard Lafferty (KTM) got the holeshot this time and led the race early on, however, he soon yielded to his brother Mike. From there, Mike never looked back nor was challenged, although many things were happening behind the leader.

After leading the beginning of the race, Rich Lafferty began to fade, eventually retiring after four laps for undetermined reasons. Early on, Fred Hoess (Hus) was posturing to give Mike a run for the top spot, however he also DNFed after four laps with a motor problem on his Husqvarna WR250. "This is the first mechanical failure I've ever experienced with the Husky," Hoess lamented, "something was rattling around in the top end, maybe the power valve mech-



Kevin Bennett finished with enough points to all but wrap up the series title for 2000.

anism." Steve Pfeffer (Kaw) again ran with the big boys at the race's onset, only to quit after his fourth trip through the barrels, suffering from sever blistering of the hands. "I thought I could hang on for another lap," Pfeffer explained, "but I'd have never finished another two."

Meanwhile the Yankee Mo'duo of McLevy and McNeil were on the move after mediocre starts, McLevy motored his 125EXC around Bennett to move into second while McNeil's YZ125 could be heard not far behind. As time ticked down at the scoring barrels, Mike Lafferty came through just a few minutes ahead of the cutoff and was promptly sent out for a seventh and final lap. It was in the bag. Conversely, a few minutes after the cutoff, McLevy roared in, trailed by Bennett and McNeil. Craig Shenigo (KTM), rounded out the top five overall after starting from the second

row off the line.

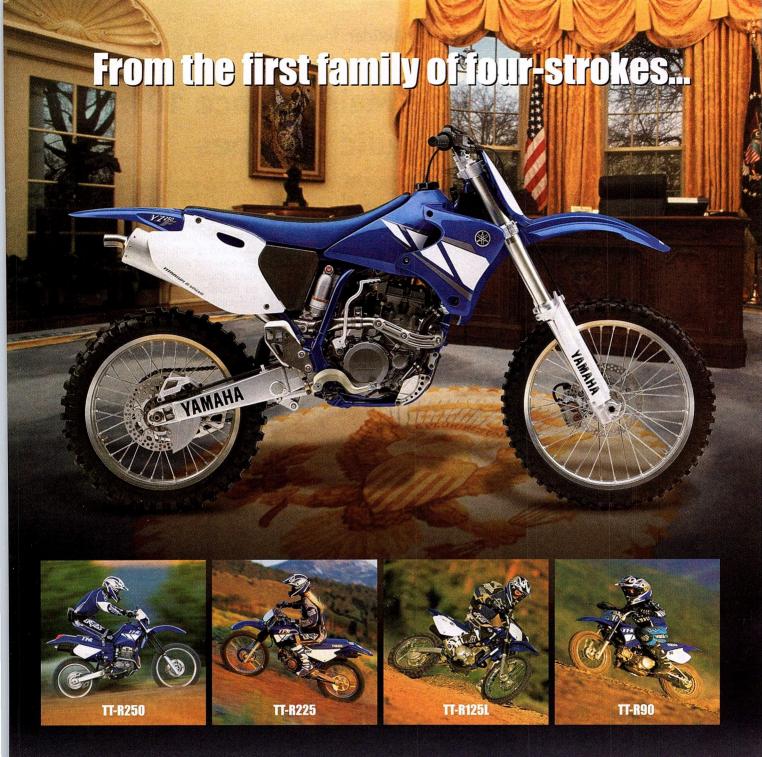
Club officials noted that riders who DNF'd and failed to turn in their punch cards were not scored, most notable among them being Fred Hoess. Hoess might have hurt his chances of repeating as champion as even a few points might have improved his position. According to Charlie Stapleford, ECEA HS series referee/points keeper, the unofficial standings after the



Mike Lafferty took advantage of off-season time to easily take the win at the Lummis MIII scrambles.

Lummis Mill race finds Kevin Bennett in the points leads with 142 points, trailed by Hoess (122) and Shenigo (about 120). With one round remaining and a first place finish worth 25 points, both Hoess and Shenigo need a miracle to surmount Bennett for the '00 HS title.

What where the strength and section in the section is	an are	a starting from the se		00 113 title. •			W Later Com
Lummis Mill		3. Luke McNeil	Yam	4. David Flamm	KTM	4. Scott Straub	Suz
Hare Scrambles		4. Mike Arendasky	Hon	5. David Barlow	Kaw	5. Richard Zeleznik	Kaw
Overall Champion		5. Mike Berenbak	Hon	Super Senior		Youth A	
Michael Lafferty	KTM	A-250		1. Jack Lafferty Sr.	KTM	Wallace Palmer	Hon
Four Stroke		1. Michael Lafferty	KTM	Scott Wolfersberger	Hus	2. Ryan McGaha	Hon
1. Robert Bennett	Hon	2. Thomas Britton	Hon	3. Tom Phillips	KTM	3. Scott Edelstein	Kaw
2. Dan Sharpless	Kaw	3. Eric Corbin	Yam	4. Richard Trader	KTM	4. Dylan Montanaro	
3. Douglas Groff	KTM	4. Marc Grossman	Hus	5. Rocco Spano	Yam	5. Andrew Sarclette	Hon
4. Greg Davies	Yam	B-200		C-200		Youth B	
5. Chris Vecchione	Hon	1. Frank Lupperger	Yam	1. Bill King	Yam	1. Jimmy Maul	Kaw
A-Veteran		2. Rob Trout	Yam	2. Charles Ciaurelli	KTM	2. Joseph Lamanna	Kaw
1. Craig Shenigo	KTM	3. Daniel Baldwin	Hon	3. Chase Compton	KTM	3. Lee Wolcott	Hon
2. James McCommon	KTM	4. Steve Brown	Yam	4. Dante Dottavio	Kaw	4. Jim Lockard	Kaw
3. John Stachowski	KTM	5. Mayyer Irani	Kaw	5. Warren Davidson	Suz	5. Jim Thompson	Hon
4. Michael Mchale	KTM	B-250		C-250		Youth C	
5. Edward O'flynn	Hon	1. Rob Novotny	Hon	1. Michael Errickson	KTM	1. James Dzierminski	Kaw
B-Veteran		2. Robert Herrington	KTM	2. Geoff Christmas	Yam	2. Kelsey Hartem	Yam
1. David Mills	KTM	3. Michael Melniczuk	KTM	3. Joe Sumpter	Yam	3. Katerina Camp	Yam
2. Michael Kowalsky	KTM	4. Michael Graden	Kaw	4. Ted Ryan	Yam	4. Nick Stachowski	KTM
3. Andrew Simboli	Gas	5. Steven Melniczuk	KTM	5. Preston Carden	Yam	5. John Matinog	Kaw
4. Robert Willis	Yam	Senior		C-Veteran		Women	
A-200		1. Kevin Reed	Yam	1. William King	KTM	1. Sandra Cummings	Yam
1. Josh Mclevy	KTM	2. James Gunselman	Yam	2. Erik Hohenberger	Yam	2. Paula Trout	Kaw
2. Kevin Bennett	Hon	3. Daniel Compton	KTM	3. Michael Litbin	Kaw	3. Lisa Arsenault	Hon



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TrailRider Toolbox

by Mark Uth



Motorcycle Maintenance 101: Hydraulic Clutches

prevalent these days, standard equipment on some Euro brands like KTM and Gas Gas; aftermarket kits manufactured by Billetanium and Magura available for just about any other. At first a novelty, now standard equipment, the question still remains: what's all the buzz?

A good number of motorcyclists are under the misguided impression that having a hydraulically actuated clutch automatically means that clutch lever effort is going to be less. This just isn't so. Granted, hydraulic clutch systems do eliminate problems associated with worn or dirty clutch cables, e.g., stickiness, increased friction, inconsistent feel and stretching. The fact is that a fresh, clean mechanical cable with a nylon inner sleeve overcomes just about all of these problems. It is actually the clutch spring tension and preload that predominantly determines clutch lever pull effort, whether the tension of those springs is overcome by a hydraulic or mechanical advantage has virtually no impact on lever effort.

Nonetheless there are some places where



The best way to bleed air out of a hydraulic system is to force the fluid in from below. Any kind of squeeze bottle and hose will work fine. Below: The trouble with some OEM hose fittings is lack of strength—this kind of hose connection can pull out surprisingly easily, leaving you with no clutch.



hydraulically actuated clutch systems do excel, and the most obvious is adjustment. Hydraulic clutches are inherently self adjusting, negating the need to periodically adjust lever free play at the clutch perch as the clutch plates heat up and expand. Perhaps a case could be made that the "feel" or engagement is smoother and more consistent with hydraulic systems, although one might argue that a properly routed mechanical cable could be just as smooth. Regarding disadvantages, I doubt that anyone would argue that servicing a hydraulic clutch (read: bleeding and/or hose replacement) is considerably more challenging than simply replacing a cable. More costly too.

Like any hydraulic system, regular fluid changes are essential to system reliability. Why? Hydraulic fluid gets dirty (just like brake fluid) and when it does it can quickly wear out system seals and cups, precipitating their eventual failure. This situation is exasperated in hydraulic clutch systems because of the small volume of fluid within. Less fluid to dilute suspended particulate increases the frequency of it coming in contact with soft seals and cups.

Near all stock bikes come equipped with flimsy stock hydraulic clutch hoses that we've found are

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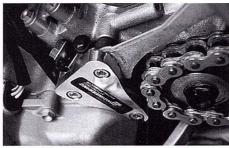
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OLD RT. 115 SAYLORSBURG, PA 18353 all-too-easily damaged. The most common failure is the hose gets pulled out of its compression fitting at the master cylinder during crashes and spirited riding through thick trees and brush. We've seen this happen to a lesser extent down at the slave cylinder. Unfortunately, either way this is a catastrophic failure that doesn't lend itself to a trail side fix. Fortunately, companies like Enduro Engineering and Motion Pro have come up with sturdy braided steel replacement hose assemblies that use banjo fittings on either end of the hose. Additionally, several aftermarket manufacturers make guards that fit over the slave cylinder assembly, thus protecting the vulnerable hose connection there. We highly recommend both.

Servicing hydraulic clutch systems primarily comes down to periodic system fluid bleeding, whether it be to replace dirty fluid or after the occasional hose replacement. Fluid bleeding techniques are basically the same as with hydraulic braking systems, however, it has its subtle differences. The first and foremost is that you have to pay attention to what fluid you're using. Different manufactures used different fluids, and they're definitely not interchangeable. More on this later. Other, more subtle differences are related to working with a much smaller scale hydraulic system; the master cylinder pumps fluid at a much slower rate and the hose itself, having a smaller inner diameter impacts the "feel" during bleeding. Another factor, the fluid itself is inherently thinner viscosity, therefore it has more of a tendency to be affected by gravity. This can be used to your advantage as the hose and slave cylinder can be mostly filled by simply filling the reservoir (and keeping it filled) and cracking open the bleeder valve. Because of potential difficulties in keeping the tiny master cylinder primed, many mechanics prefer



The good old angled banjo fitting is the most reliable. This is a replacement KTM hose made by Enduro Engineering, and it's well worth the trouble to install. Below: Enduro Engineering also makes an aluminum guard for the clutch slave cylinder. Installed by simply bolting over the slave cylinder, it should offer protection if you break a chain at speed.



to use some sort of commercial brake bleeding rig to more efficiently force or suck fluid through the system. Either way, like with bleeding brakes, patience and thoroughness are the best way to ensure that the system is completely bubble free.

Regarding fluids, at this time the various hydraulic clutch manufacturers and/or bike OEMs have yet to settle on what type of fluid works best in hydraulic clutches, and as a result there are a variety of fluids in use which in some cases are totally non-interchangeable. The hydraulic clutch systems found on KTMs are designed for use with mineral oil, a benign, petroleum-based oil with few (if any) additives. Pharmaceutical mineral oil is a clear, ingestible (yes that's right, and FDA approved as a laxative) fluid that can be purchased in just about any drug store. There are other light mineral oils too (non-consumable) and those are what are typically sold by manufactures of bike fluids under a "KTM clutch fluid" moniker. We've even heard that some KTM mechanics are using automatic transmission fluid, ATF Dextron III, in lieu of mineral oil for its improved high temperature characteristics, although we've yet to try this out ourselves. On the other end of the spectrum is brake fluid, used in Gas Gas motorcycles. No matter what fluid is used in your hydraulic clutch, the most important aspect is to stick with it and never substitute one for the other. Failure to do so will surely ruin all of the seals in the master and slave

Hose replacement is the most common task you'll have to face, and we found it's best to manually fill the hose with fluid before you button everything up. Attach the new hose at the slave cylinder, crack open the bleeder and inject a quantity of fluid with a syringe body or similar squirter until it comes out the top of the hose. Attach the hose to the master cylinder and then purge the air the same way, from the bottom. Once you pump up the lever you should have clutch action. Finish up the bleeding in the standard way and you'll be good to go. •



MATTS ON FIRST

Wrapping up the GNCC in Indiana

by Paul Clipper

Ironman GNCC, Crawfordsville, IN 10/22

We got on a plane and flew to Indiana for the last GNCC. Too far to drive; fine with me to fly, although it meant riding someone else's bike. Since Nap Town is the home of our National Affairs Editor, Mr. Williams, an arrangement was struck where I would mooch a room off of them and a bike for Friday, and he and I and The Professor would go for a ride.

The location was the Camp Atterbury military base, where Charlie is building trails for the off-road portion of the World Police and Fireman Games to be held some time this decade. Charlie had about 30 miles of tight trail hacked out, and we rode on Friday afternoon. I know they expected me to wow them with my command of a motorcycle during the ride, but for some stress-related reason—probably deadline and trying to get ready for the trip to Spain for the ISDE in five days—I arrived in Indy with no energy at all. I rode Chuck's KTM, which used to belong to Mike Lafferty, like a lump of mud on the seat. It was sad. The trails were great, though, but very slippery. In spite of my reputation as an international bon vivant and night owl, I was in bed exhausted by 8:30 that evening.

The next day it was up and out to Crawfordsville for the ATV and Youth races. It was somewhat fun, if you like walking around like a zombie in a state of collapse. The place was overrun with ATVs, the largest entry Racer Productions had seen in Indiana. Since it was the last race and a fair number of riders had given up for the

season, I had a hard time finding anyone I knew from the motorcycle sport in that crowd of chairs. Drove back to Nap Town that night and joined a party in Trail Rider's honor that was subdued but memorable.

Sunday was The Day. The end of the GNCC season, and for me it was an opportunity to ride Jeff Fredette's KDX200. We did a test on a KDX (Dec '00), and as part of that we ran a little story on what Jeff does to his bike, which is very little, really. I hooked up with him and raced the beast in the morning race, and it reminded me how much I used to like KDXs. His bike worked fine, and was fun, but I still prefer four-strokes these days. Easier to ride.

Once the morning race was over, and Shane Nally had won yet another GNCC Sportsman's race, we turned our attention to the big boys. This was the last hur-

rah for everyone. KTM's Shane Watts had wrapped up the season, but there'd be plenty of coverage of Crawfordsville, better know as the Ironman GNCC, and whoever wound up on the podium, naturally, would get the most glory.

Everybody was there. Rumors that the Suzuki camp would stay home



Paul Edmondson led much of the race, but couldn't get away on the last lap.



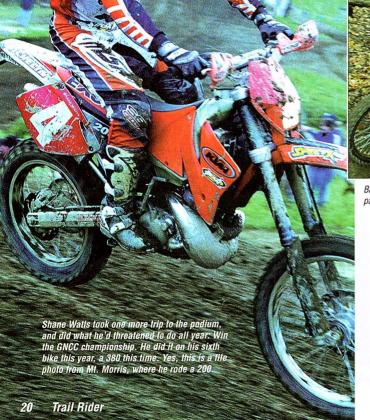
Barry Hawk chased Edmondson hard, but fell into his pace and couldn't get past. Then there was Watts...

were untrue, they were there in all their glory. So were all the Kawasaki boys, the Yamahas. Scott Summers was there, but still trying to figure out what was giving him such bad pain in his leg. He sat in the stands watching, with his girlfriend, probably thinking about the two operations he had coming up. Tough.

Watts was there, along with a whole contingent of KTM people. KTM's star motocrosser, Kelly Smith was there, planning to ride, and Scot Harden had come out



Heidi Landon won the day but lost the Women's class championship to Jennifer Shultz. So many of you have asked what Heidi looks like, here's a picture of her without riding gear.





UPS

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from San Diego and hauled along a contingent of western journalists. Too bad it wasn't raining. Watts was all suited up ready to ride the 380EXC again, and all I can say is better him than me. That bike has uncontrollable horsepower squirting out of every orifice, and I know I wouldn't want to ride it in the woods. Little did I know, Watts had a plan. "Yeah, I've got the big girl today, and I'll admit she's too much for me, way too much horsepower. But I think it'll come in handy in those field sections."

The race started with Suzuki's Steve Hatch taking the holeshot and entering the woods backed up with three of his teammates. Rodney Smith soon moved into the point position, with Hatch, Mike Kiedrowski and Jim Jarrett all close behind in a Suzuki freight train. It never lasts for long at a GNCC, and the yellow bikes were soon washed over with a green wave, as Paul Edmondson started picking his way to the front, with Kawasaki teammate Fred Andrews close behind. Andrews, winner of the previous round, was ready to taste a little more of that victory champagne, but it wasn't going to happen. Before the second lap was done he crushed his pipe on a stump, tore off a water inlet on his radiator and was forced to retire with a dried-out engine.



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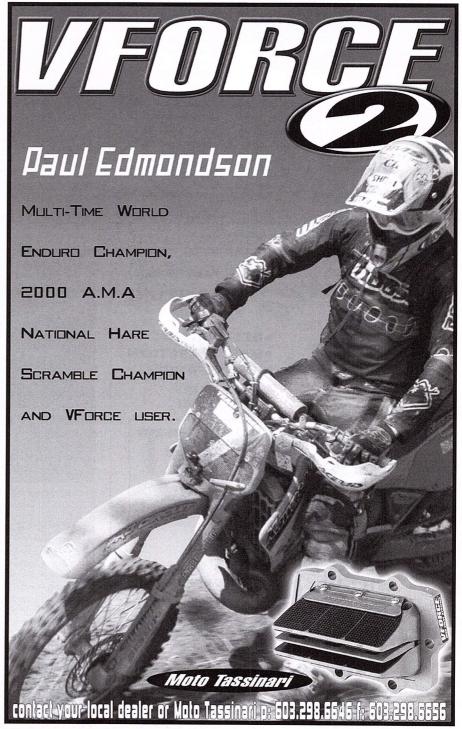
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Watts did a giant burnout on the podium, but ran out of gas before he really cooked it. Anybody want a used tire?

By the third lap Edmondson was established out front, but not able to pull away from the pack. The Suzuki team was fading back, with Kiedrowski strugaling with the rough and rutted trail conditions (riding a two-stroke RM), and Smith struggling with unseen front wheel problems. Late in the race Smith had to pit to replace his front wheel, knocking him far back and out of the lead points. Hatch, too, was knuckling under the pressure, though he kept it in the top five. The only Suzuki rider who took a turn at the lead after the first lap was Jimmy Jarrett, no doubt looking for the formula that would lead him to his second overall

Ironman GNCC		4. Richard Burbick	GAS	3. Randall Hillegas	YAM	2. Shawn Downing	KTM
Class Results		5. Dennis Hawthorne	KAW	4. JD Hammock	KTM	3. Douglas Noll	KAW
Pro		Senior A		5. Michael Schwartz	SUZ	4. Brook Barker	KTM
1. Shane Watts	KTM	1. Jeff Fredette	KAW	Sportsman		5. William Stange	HON
2. Paul Edmondson	KAW	2. Robert Kirchner	SUZ	1. Shane Nalley	SUZ	Senior C	
3. Barry E Hawk Jr	YAM	3. Mark Smith	KTM	2. John Griffin	KAW	1. Charles Cress	SUZ
4. Steve Hatch	SUZ	4. Troy Schlereth	HON	3. Karel Kramer	KTM	2. Von Brachna	YAM
5. Jason Raines	YAM	5. Terry Mealer	YAM	4. Matt Miller	SUZ	3. Bruce Love	YAM
6. Mike Kiedrowski	SUZ	Open B		5. Steve Matthes	KTM	4. Mike Branham	KTM
7. Jim Jarrett	SUZ	1. David Wolfe	KTM	Super Senior		5. Johnny Spears	KTM
8. Robbie Jenks	YAM	2. Kris Aldridge	KTM	1. Joe Hull	YAM	Women	
9. Rodney Smith	SUZ	3. Anthony Walsworth	KTM	2. Harry Greenlee	YAM	1. Heidi Landon	HUS
10. Steve Leivan	YAM	4. Bryan Hensley	KTM	3. Terry Flynn	HON	2. Bonnie Hamrick	YAM
Open A		5. Cecil Kelly	KTM	4. Don Rye	KAW	Mini Jr	
1. Jeremy Berwanger	KTM	250 B		5. Carl Pruett	SUZ	1. Thad Duvall	KAW
2. Norman Feth	YAM	1. Blair Jackson	SUZ	200 C		2. Allen Nutter Jr	YAM
3. Chad Coon	KTM	2. Sean Clayton	KAW	1. Joshua Whisnant	KAW	3. Morgan Green	KAW
4. Paul McCall	KTM	3. Ryan Wuebbeling	YAM	2. Josh Powell	YAM	4. Tyler MacDonald	YAM
5. John Yarnell	KTM	4. John Barber	YAM	3. Matt Little	KAW	5. Jeffrey Guenther	KAW
250 A		5. Dale Cash	KTM	4. Brandon Rainey	GAS	Mini Int.	
1. Aaron Kopp	SUZ	200 B		5. David Galiamo	YAM	1. Charles Mullins	HON
2. Bill Atkinson	KTM	1. Brian Melik	GAS	250 C		2. D R Atwood	KAW
3. Jeff Gregg	YAM	2. Chad Tallman	TM	1. Terry Deal	HON	3. Cody Calkins	SUZ
4. Todd Morain	KTM	3. Scott Watkins	KAW	2. Jamie Smith	YAM	4. Christopher Bach	KAW
5. John Rentschler	SUZ	4. Justin Fluharty	KAW	3. Christopher Spear	HON	5. Brad Hensley	KAW
200 A		5. Mike Stapula	KTM	4. Nick Daniels	KTM	Mini Sr.	
1. Chris Gallt	KAW	Four Stroke B		5. Dan Kormos	KAW	1. Justin Dyke	KAW
2. Joshua Knapp	KAW	1. Jeffrey Hively	YAM	Open C		2. Jonathan Woodford	KAW
3. Mike Mihalik	KTM	2. David Riel	HON	1. Clint Edwards	SUZ	3. Bryan Happle	KAW
4. Ian Sherwood	KTM	3. Mike Hanchett	YAM	2. Douglas Day	KTM	4. Derron Oakley	HON
5. Brett Zofchak	KAW	4. James Harris	KTM	3. Joey Stanley	HON	5. Chris Taylor	KAW
Four Stroke A		5. Makoto Kurashita	KAW	4. Ross Alcorn	KTM		
1. Brad Hamrick	YAM	Vet B		5. Bobby Brooks	YAM		
2. Ronald Johnson	YAM	1. Ray Owens	HUS	Four Stroke C			
3. Scott Phillips	SUZ	2. Russell Bain	HON	1. Carl Pettit	YAM		
4. Kyle Milne	YAM	3. David Powell	YAM	2. Ben Butler	HON		
5. Ryan Barrett	KTM	4. Todd Temple	KTM	3. Tad Daniels	SUZ		
Vet Å		5. Daniel Kendra	YAM	4. John Scheischel	SUZ		
1. Scott Plessinger	YAM	Senior B		5. Tony Rion	YAM		
2. Jeffrey Hursh	YAM	1. Benjamin Smith	YAM	Vet C			
3. John Roth	YAM	2. Mark Mihalik	KAW	1. Chris Taylor	KTM		





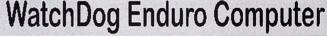
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win of the year.

But Jarrett too faded back under the pressure of a flying Barry Hawk (Yam), who moved up quickly to put the pressure on Edmondson. "About halfway through I tried jumping this ditch over here and got cross-rutted and fell down," Hawk told us, "and I know Jarrett and Shane and a bunch of us were all laying on the ground together. That's probably when Paul pulled his lead."

In the mean time, Watts seemed to pull out of his early-race cruise mode, after a lousy start, and start getting it together. "I was just having so much fun roosting it around. But then things started falling into place, and I thought 'Hey, I've got a chance at the win here.' So I cruised along and got myself into a decent position, and knowing this was the fastest bike out there, I thought 'Thank God for that last field section right before the finish here. I'll come around the final lap in second or third and then get up into first by the final section,' and that's exactly what happened. It was unreal."

Unreal isn't the word. Breaking up the fast woods sections were ribboned-off corn fields that had recently been harvested. I know riding the KDX I felt insignificant in most of them, wishing I had something with tons of horsepower and gearing, something like me four-stroke...or maybe a KTM 380. That's when what Watts was doing started making sense. He wanted no excuses on the last lap, and he got it with the 380. Eyewitnesses say that Watts came into the last field in third, drafting the other two like a bicycle racer, then on the last straightaway he just shifted his line over a couple of feet and powered by Hawk and Edmondson in a blaze of serious horsepower. "There wasn't a thing we could do," said Hawk. "Once Shane got into the woods in front, we were done."

And that was the way it went. Watts held the other

two off through the last mile of woods, and emerged to take his sixth win of the season—on his sixth bike—and win the championship in fine form. He came into the checkered flag waving his arms and overcome with victory. The main concern from the Racer Productions end was nailing down a piece of plywood on the trailer/podium, so that Watts didn't burn a hole through it when he did his victory burnout. Burnout? Yep, it's an old Australian tradition. AT the Aussie ISDE a couple of years ago Wattsy won the overall, and proceeded to do a burnout on a small pad of concrete that was poured especially for that purpose. Surrounded by a thousand chanting fans he burnt his rear tire right down to the cord, in a huge cloud of smoke.

Well, they were up on the podium doing the postrace interviews, when Watts looked over to Harden and indicated his fuel tank, and said "No gas. I've got no gas!" Sure enough, he'd cut the gas stops so close he had less than a pint of fuel in his tank, and sorry to say the crowd was treated to a burnout that only lasted about 30 seconds before the "big girl" ran dry.

And that was it. Watts had a final win and a series championship, Edmondson was second and Barry Hawk was third for the day. The Suzuki team missed their chance for final glory, and while the south end of the Pro pits looked like a giant KTM party, the north end, with all the yellow Suzuki tents, looked like a funeral. It's tough to lose a series that you've owned for the past few years, but there's nothing in this world as sure as change and uncertainly. Of that, I'm certain.

After that it was one more trip down the road to Indy, one more strip-mall Mexican restaurant. In only four days I'd see Edmondson, Watts and Hawkins in Spain for the ISDE, and on the edge of a cornfield in Indiana, somehow that seemed odd. It never ends, you know







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Above: Russell Pearson put together the best American performance and finished 14th in class. Left: Rider pass through downtown Montefrio on day three. Is that inspector Clouseau directing traffic?

The "B" team issue really rankled Drew Smith, who served as Trophy Team manager this year. "I'm convinced that this is the best team of enduro riders available in the United States right now; this is no "B" team," he said after the first day of competition. "There was talk earlier in the year about recruiting some pro motocrossers to participate in the Six days, and I don't think those pro motocrossers would take very kindly to having to push up the hill in the morning, the hill the riders have had to push up every day. That's not something somebody can come here and learn at the last second. They would have seen that hill and said 'Well, we can't go up that hill, this must be the finish of the event ...?' We need people here with the determination to push when they have to push, and the people we have, have that determination."

Our Trophy team this year consisted of Fred Hoess (Hus), Destry Abbott (Kaw), Russ Pearson (Yam), Randy Hawkins (Yam), and Brian and Pat Garrahan (both KTM). All six qualified as high as they could in the American series, and most importantly, they were six guys who wanted to go. By the end of the week, all six of them would still be riding, finishing a bigger team than we've finished in a few years at Six Days. They all had a lot of heart, and spirit, and I think they



Junior Trophy rider David Pearson took a gold medal in the 250 class, finishing 31st.

did a job we can all be proud of.

John Beal (G-G), Kurt Caselli (TM), David Pearson (Yam) and Cody Mastin (KTM) made up the Junior Trophy team, a four man team of riders under the age of 23. Joining the two teams were 29 other riders, for a total American participation of 39 riders, along with at least 150 additional support people. It was our usual big effort.

There were no major pre-race dramas this year. The only impound problem was suffered by Randy Hawkins, who entered the country with a Yamaha WR426 that he brought from the States. The trouble with a 426 is that ISDE rules have a class for 250 Four-Stroke, "up-to" 400 Four-Stroke, and Over 500 Four-Stroke. A WR426 falls into a no-mans land between the 400 and Over 500 class, and therefore it's illegal for ISDE competition.

"I figured they'd let it by," said Randy, "or if there was a problem I'd bump up to the Over-500 class as plan "B." The trouble was, we had to use plan "C."" The officials wouldn't allow the 426 to pass, and it was too small for the +500 class. At that point Randy asked around, found a WR400 chase bike on the Portuguese team that he could use as a cylinder donor, and started a careful job of removing the cylinder from both bikes and making his 426 a legal 400. He planned to use a new 400 piston, rings and wrist pin he had in his parts kit.

With help from a few different people in the pits he went through the laborious job of striping down both engines and carefully building his up, until it came time to install the 400 piston in his 426 bottom end

Above: Scene int he American pits before the start. Curt Wilcox adopted a stray dog and lived on top of the trailer. Below: Randy Hawkins get moral support from Marc Grossman during a tire change on day two.



and found out the small end of the connecting rod was a different size between the two bikes.

With time running out, careful work turned to panic. and all hands joined in to help. Now he had to remove the bottom end of the donor bike, build the engine again and get it into impound by eight p.m. "I used my new piston and rings, but this bike had been used hard," he told us. "Everything in the top end was worn, worse that I would have liked. I didn't even want to look at the bottom end. I just put my clutch and cylinder head on it and left it alone." Once the bike was impounded he heaved a sigh of relief (before starting the job of putting the donor's "new" 426 back together) and admitted he had no clue as to how reliable his hybrid machine would be. "Yamaha makes a good bike, but I was told this engine was used last year in Portugal. I'm going to take it as far as I can, and we'll see how it goes."

Day One

All week long we'd heard how dry and dusty Spain was, and saw the evidence first hand on trips to the countryside to check out the special tests. So of course, on the morning of the start it was raining. A cold drizzle fell on the starting podium, and radio reports from the first check claimed it was pouring up in the mountains, so riders had another strain to add to the pressure of a rocky, technical course and unfamiliar terrain.

With over 550 riders starting the course, the officials decided that the slower schedule "B" would

apply to the single lap of the day's trail. Connecting the four grass-track special tests and one enduro test was trail that alternated between greasy clay-based hills and rocky, sandy high-speed low lands. The hills were the tricky part, and the Finnish Trophy Team, last year's ISDE winner and the favorite for this year. received their first bad blow when Samuli Aro, one of their 400cc riders bailed off on a downhill and in a spectacular crash broke both a collarbone and a knee.

Fred Hoess had the distinction of being the first American out on the trail, riding on minute 18, and it was a mixed blessing, according to him. "It's nice to be up front. I'm not complaining, but you're clearing the trail, man," he said. "We're taking all the rocks, clearing them off the trail. I'm maybe the 15th, 16th bike through sometimes. There's not as much traffic, but sometimes it's good, sometimes it's bad.'

At the conclusion of the day Australian whiz Stefan Merriman was leading the event overall, with 14 seconds advantage over last year's overall winner Mika Ahola of Finland. Merriman was riding smooth and blazingly fast all day, doing an incredible job on a 400cc Husky four-stroke. His good placing helped kick the Aussies up to sixth place in the Trophy, although Ahola's Finnish team still combined best scores to lead the Trophy competition by a good margin. Spain led the Junior Trophy competition while the Italian MC Ostra team put forth the best Club effort.

USA's Trophy team had a strong but unspectacular day to finish 11th, with Russell Pearson putting together the best Yankee score on his Yamaha to finish 13th in class. USA's Junior Trophy squad put together a lackluster 16th place finish, with Cody Mastin and John Beal having trouble and losing time on the course, Beal mostly by being hit by a car. Our best Club team effort was logged by the Net Leased club of Luca Trussardi, Steve Silvestri, and Paul

ISDE Results **Trophy Team**

- 1. Italy, 10:25.36 2. Sweden, 15:25.74
- 3. Spain, 17:19.06
- 4. Australia, 18:05.02 5. France, 25:11.30
- 6. Czech Rep., 29:27.38
- 7. Belgium, 31:54.03
- 8. Slovakia, 32:26.37
- 9. England, 32:59.58 10. USA, 33:14.43

Junior Trophy

- 1. Spain, 10:39.33
- 2. Italy, 13:49.50
- 3. Sweden, 16:54.12
- 4. Czech. Rep., 19:48.95
- 5. Germany, 20:16.67 6. Finland, 22:45.87
- 7. France, 23:01.07
- 8. England, 31:06.14 9. Portugal, 33:31.02
- 10. Mexico, 44:39.58
- 15. USA, 10:38:20.44

Club Teams

- 1. Kangasalan Moottorikerho (Finland), 13:01.23
- 6. Gerrit Hamilton Memorial, 36:39.32
- 9. Net Leased Club, 39:45.26
- 20. Boise Ridge Riders, 1:17:29.20
- 24. Team Senior, 1:50:09.78
- 37. Salt Fork Dirt Riders, 4:22:17.05
- 59. Daytona Dirt Riders, 8:54:58.05
- 66. Little Burr, 10:24:59.96 71. Merced Dirt Riders, 11:46:53.30
- 78. Red River Riders, 15:34:24.49
- 85. Team Iowa, 21:40:38.00

125cc 2-Stroke

- 1. Juha Salminen (Finland) 1:43:44.39 (Gold)
- 14. Luca Trussardi, 1:47:13.20 (Gold) 28. Fred Hoess, 1:50:36.77 (Gold)
- 45. Mark Stevens, 1:53:33.24 (Gold)
- 70. Ron Lawson, 2:21:34.01 (Silver)
- 73. Joe Cartwright, 2:49:22.62 (Bronze)

Krause.

Day Two

The weather took a turn for the better on day two. warm and dry and not as muddy. The second day was a repeat of the first, without the slippery conditions. Luckily, the Spanish organizers anticipated the huge rider turnout and laid out a trail that was long enough to make each day a good contest with one lap of the

250cc 2-Stroke

- 1. Mika Ahola (Finland) 1:40:59.86 (Gold)
- 14. Russell Pearson, 1:46:51.31 (Gold)
- 15. Destry Abbott, 1:46:54.58 (Gold)
- 26. Jason Dahners, 1:49:18.91 (Gold)
- 31. David Pearson, 1:49:46.07 (Gold)
- 50. Matt Stavish, 1:53:27.07 (Silver) 56. Alan Deyo, 1:55:17.40 (Silver)
- 58. Richard Lafferty, 1:55:45.79 (Silver)
- 61. Brian Bennett, 1:56:10.78 (Silver)
- 64. Tim Taber, 1:56:35.41 (Silver)
- 76. Jeff Fredette, 2:00:30.51 (Silver)
- 79. Mart Geary, 2:00:44.24 (Silver) 83. Steve Silvestri, 2:01:10.84 (Silver)
- 90. Scott Hofman, 2:03:21.13 (Silver)
- 93. Steve Vanzant, 2:03:52.56 (Silver)
- 107. Alex Mcelyea, 2:16:22.62 (Silver)
- 111. Ron Schmelzle, 2:23:27.94 (Bronze)
- 142. David Campbell, 3:21:19.43 (Bronze)
- 143. Mark Adkins, 3:21:47.48 (Bronze)
- 171. Troy Smith, 5:24:24.80 (Bronze) 400cc 4-Stroke

- 1. Stefan Merriman (Australia), 1:40:45.22 (O/A Winner)
- 11. Brian Garrahan, 1:47:04.93 (Gold)
- 17. Randy Hawkins, 1:48:29.41 (Gold)
- 28. Brian Sperle, 1:53:17.71 (Silver)
- 34. Paul Krause, 1:54:49.47 (Silver)
- 72. Randy Mastin, 2:56:29.95 (Bronze)

+500cc 4-Stroke

- 1. Anders Ericksson (Sweden), 1:41:39.21
- 16. Patrick Garrahan, 1:49:03.76 (Gold) 44. Cody Mastin, 4:09:21.22 (Bronze)

course. Usually, the Six Days is two laps of a loop, plus twice around each special test each day. In these conditions, the Spanish course would have broken down into a whooped-out rut. As it was, the course was fairly beat-up even after one day's ride.

A lapse of attention or a bad decision could mean more than lost time. Gas Gas club team rider Nolan Knight misjudged a section of special test trail and

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The final moto gets red flagged, in a controversial move that cut the Six Days down to five and ensured the Spanish Trophy team would stay on the podium. Conspiracy or coincidence? We'll never know.

wound up cartwheeling down a hill, coming upright with a broken shoulder and an ended Six Days. "It was a shame," said his brother Nathan, who was riding on the same minute. "He was no more than a half mile from the end of the test, and from there it was all asphalt all the way in."

Nolan joined other American first day retirees Lonny Ross and Curt Wilcox, both riding on club teams and both suffering engine failures in the 250 Four Stroke class. Wilcox was reportedly using a '97 Honda XR250 that had seen service in two other Six Days. He also was living in a tent on top of the American support trailer, and had adopted a stray dog he found, leaving the dog to enjoy everyone's comings and going from atop the trailer. The whole scene lent a

down-home, warm and fuzzy atmosphere to the American effort.

Potentially serious problems were also logged by club riders Glenn Martinson, Mike Monroe and John Beal, and Junior Trophy rider Kurt Caselli. Each were accused of outside assistance during the final work period of day one, and were riding day two while facing exclusion from the event, pending a formal decision by the International Jury. Our riders weren't the only ones nabbed by eagle-eyed officials in the pits, although video tapes of Spanish riders receiving assistance were disallowed by the International Jury. It was pretty obvious that the home team had the advantage, but that's something you have to take in stride. Play by the rules, keep a clean nose, and stay

above all the nonsense.

Senior Trophy Team rider Fred Hoess seemed to be getting his ride together, putting together better special test times and finishing 25th in class (125cc) rather than the first day's 37th. Destry Abbott also improved his position, finishing 12th instead of the first day's 16th, and moving ahead of Russ Pearson to claim the mythical "first American" position. Pearson suffered a couple of bad special tests that added maybe 30 seconds to his score and dropped him a few places down in class. "It's tough," said Hoess, "you can finish just a couple of seconds behind someone in a test and look at the results and see that it bumped you 100 positions in the class."

"I think Russ has had a really good day today," claimed Russ's dad, Lee Pearson, helping out with support in the pits. "Yesterday he was a little tight, but today his first test was only a half a second behind Ahola, second test he only lost two seconds to him, third test only five, so you know, he's doing good. If he can ride with that guy, he did really good."

Both the Garrahan brothers moved up in their classes, the 400cc Four-Stroke class for Brian and the 520 Four-Stroke class for Patrick. Randy Hawkins' patched-together 400 seemed to be working well, with a little horsepower disadvantage. "I've got to find another legal silencer for it," he told us. "You might have heard me ride by. Or not heard me ride by! It's quiet, and it passes the sound test, but it's not making any top end power. I'm getting killed in the fast sections. Acerbis has a better silencer for it, and I'm going to try to get one and get a little speed going, if I can." His times were still good, leaving him 15th or so in class.

Owing to good tests by the Portuguese team, the USA Trophy Team dropped down a place to 12th, and the Junior Trophy remained in 16th.



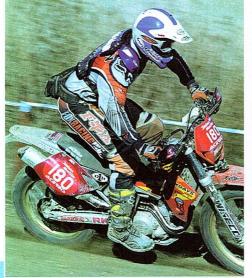
January 2001

Just in case we were in danger of forgetting we were in a place that English isn't often or easily spoken, we received this quote in a press release late in the day. Petteri Silvan (Finland, TROPHY): "I've had a crash against a tree, and I've broken the frontal side of the dorsal. They put a new one and...flat out."

Day Three

More fun with English: Giovanni Sala: "I can't be very glad for the job I've done until now, although it is impossible to follow the pace of Merriman. He looks like flying instead of going by motorbike. Finland had very bad luck. Everyone has to be careful with the mechanic. The job done by the organisation of the race is perfect."

We went out searching for the mechanic Sala said we had to be careful with, but couldn't find him. He was right, the organization of the race was very good,



it just tended to favor the home team, something that was soon going to be more apparent.

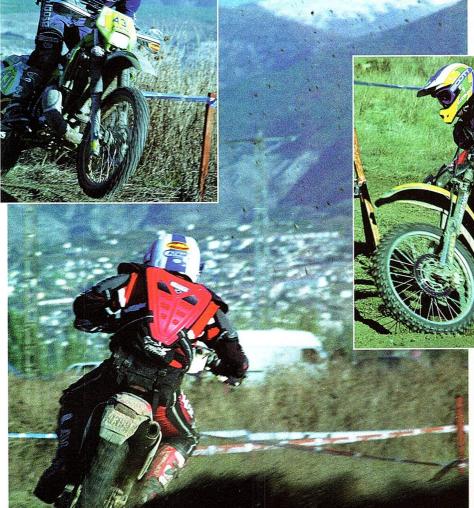
In international action, the indestructible Finns, winners of the last two Six Day Trophy Team competitions, suddenly found themselves out begging. After losing a team rider on the first day to serious injury, they had no room for mistakes. They finished day one leading the Trophy competition, but shortly after the start of day two 125cc flash Petteri Silvan blew his Husky up in a special test and parked it. This moved the Italians up to the first position in the Trophy Team competition, followed by Spain and Sweden.

Australian Stefan Merriman was in firm command of the overall lead, riding with the kind of skill and precision that leaves you staring, open-mouthed. He rides the grass track tests extremely fast, but the most amazing thing to witness is his accuracy and focus. He just doesn't blow the turns, ever. Every line he takes is the right line, and he never appears to be out of control. It is just amazing to watch, just like the first time we really watched Giovanni Sala in Tulsa, or Shane Watts in Australia.

By this day in the competition, it was becoming plain that the Spaniards had laid out an almost perfect four-stroke course, whether they had planned it that way or not. Merriman was in control, but behind him in the overall were four more four-stroke pilots, and they were beating the best riders in the world. They were displacing Mika Ahola, Gio Sala, Shane Watts and Paul Edmondson to name just a few, and forcing

them way down in the results. Behind Merriman were Anders Eriksson, the veteran Husaberg rider from the Swedish Trophy Team, riding a 400, Kari Tiainen of Finland on a +500, David Fretigne of France on a 400, and Bjorne Carlson of Sweden, also on a +500. Behind them was Mika Ahola, last year's ISDE overall winner, scrambling to keep them in sight and now seconds behind Merriman in overall time.

What was making the difference this year was the length and speed of the special tests. Most of the grass tracks were long, wide, and very fast, perfect for getting a big four-stroke up into fifth or sixth gear and just wring-



Clockwise from above: Jeff Fredette rode his 20th Six Days, won his ninth silver medal, and he'll be back next year. Brian Garrahan (180) rode like the wind on his 400 thumper. Stefan Merriman was The Wizard of Six Days, absolutely unbeatable nearly every day, an inspiration to watch. Destry Abbott overcame a few problems and put in a good gold medal ride. Big photo: An American rider heads for the hills in a special test.



ing it out. The two-strokes were simply running out of top speed; if you could hold on, you could get a much better time on a tall-geared, torquey four-stroke, and that's exactly what they were doing.

The tests were helping the Garrahan brothers, with Brian, in the 400 class, pulling the best times, being back only about ten seconds off Merriman's time and finishing most tests between tenth and 15th place in class. Patrick, riding in the +500 class, was a handful of seconds behind his brother's times, but still finished the day 19th in the class.

The American speed demon was Russell Pearson, however, driving his Yamaha 250 to 12th in class and finishing in the top 20 in every special test. His best score for day three was seventh place in the first cross test, a few hundredths of a second in front of Ahola, the class leader. Russ was taking this all very seriously, and was seen looking some of the tests over late in the afternoon, looking for places to improve his times. Kawasaki's Destry Abbott, another desert racing pro, was right up there as well, presently sitting in 18th place in class.

Abbott did a fine job of recovering from a shock absorber that had started leaking the day before, and lost all damping as a result. He came back at the end of day two and quickly pulled the shock and changed his rear tire, and impounded the bike in pieces. Trophy Team manager Drew Smith, who owns the suspension company Works Enduro Rider and had the foresight to pack a selection of popular shock parts just in case, rebuilt the shock overnight and re-pressured it with help from Team Italy's nitrogen bottle. "The shock is working great," Abbott reported later, "my only trouble is my front tire. I've been having all these nagging little problems, and I haven't had a chance to change it yet. It's just about bald!"

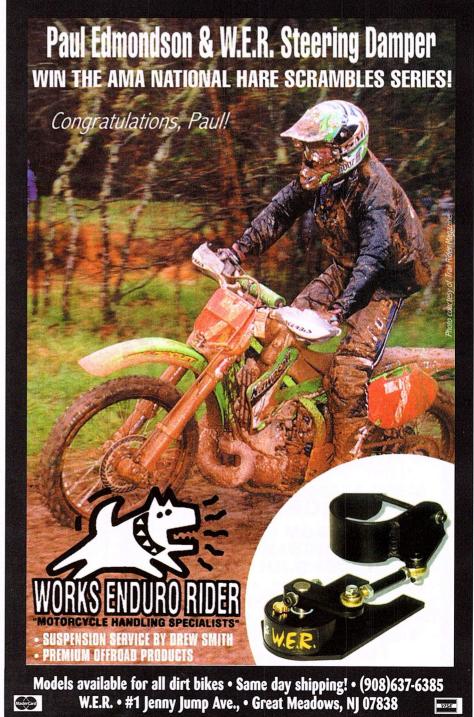
Hawkins was still going strong in the 400cc class, sitting in 21st place and a gold medal, and Fred Hoess was soldiering well in the 125cc class, still on gold. The combined efforts of this group left the American Trophy Team in tenth place, still with plenty of room to move up.

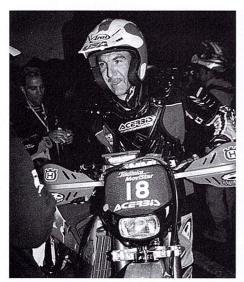
The Junior Trophy team's fate was sealed, however, by the exclusion of John Beal and Kurt Caselli, both accused of rule infractions. Caselli had a radiator failure and replaced it outside of a work area, which is a no-no, and John Beal was accused of receiving outside assistance—supposedly someone else was



Pat Garrahan turned his first ride on a 520 KTM into a gold medal, with a 16th place in the +500 class.







Fred Hoess in the dark morning air of day one. Dry as Spain was supposed to be, it was raining.

caught spraying chain lube for him. Beal denies the help, saying he was confused with someone else in the American camp, but the International Jury upheld the accusation, and Beal wasn't allowed to start day three. Spain has won the Junior Trophy competition two of the past three years, were leading it currently, and the enthusiasm of their pit marshals may be partially explained by this. Both Beal and Caselli were devastated by the decision..

Two other American riders, Mike Monroe and Glenn Martinson, were accused and excluded of outside assistance as well.

Day Four

Day four dawned cool and wet, the result of more rain overnight. The riders were familiar with the course, since day four was a repeat of day three, but the mud made everything much more difficult. The Trophy and Junior Trophy riders once again led the way onto the course, and they arrived at the first enduro test at Los Olivares with their bikes covered with thick mud the consistency of pottery clay. Slippery as the course must have been, they arrived at the enduro test in the approximate order they'd started that morning, save for a mix-up of some of the 125cc numbers as they struggled with the hills. The enduro test was prior to check two, and it followed a cross test a ways down the road in Caparacena, where they had gone through check one. From there, the riders moved on to check three with little trouble, and then to check four in the mountain town of Montefrio, where they encountered difficulty in a technical riding section a few kilometers before Montefrio. They straggled into check five and the second cross test of the day in a completely scrambled order, but none of the riders had any major difficulty in the cross test. They rode from there to check six and then back home to a final cross test before impound without further incident. Basically, it was a tough day, a real enduro day, but not impossible.

Once the riders got back to impound word started getting around that tests were being thrown out of the day's results, because "they were too difficult." As you can imagine, this had a less than enthusiastic response from the American camp. "Every time the Six Days starts getting a little tough, they start taking out checks and tests," said Brian Garrahan. "It's stupid! What's the sense of all that? They took out cross test two and there's no reason for it. That test was

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Nolan Knight started out with a good few days on his Gas Gas, then crashed and broke his shoulder.

sweet."

In the end the Jury voided all the times of cross tests one and two, and took away any time penalties riders may have had going into check four in Montefrio. This caused plenty of grumbling that the "enduro" was being taken out of the Six Days, and speculation as to how the Spanish teams may have benefited by having their times thrown out. There were a number of interesting theories, but it all works out to a kind of sour grapes, in a way. The way things like this are decided is by decision of the majority of

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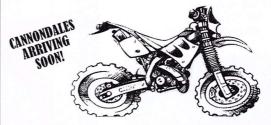
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the International Jury, representatives of each country's sanctioning federation. In a system likes this, the strong lobbying comes from a group of countries standing to get the most benefit from the decision, rather than just a decision on what was the right thing to do. In an enduro, the right thing to do is leave everything in, but it didn't work out that way.

The one obvious thing about leaving cross test one in was the benefit it gave to the later riders. Merriman, who had been setting most leading times in the special tests, only managed a 22nd place finish in that test, and Swedish Trophy rider Anders Eriksson finished 15th in that test, though he had been chasing Merriman all week so far. Instead, club team riders Alessandro Botturi and Jarno Boano, both from Italy and riding on numbers 625 and 401 respectively, set the fastest times on a drier course. Boano, who spent some time in the States this summer riding a couple of GNCC rounds, as well as appeared on a Trail Rider cover (Nov '00), nearly won the day overall, only missing it by four tenths of a second behind Eriksson. Boano did set fastest time in the 250cc Two-Stroke class on day four, beating Ahola by 18 seconds.

All the changes to the scoring did little to change the status of the Trophy competition, with the USA team still stuck in tenth. The Italians were threatened by the loss of veteran rider Mario Rinaldi, who fell and broke his ankle, retiring from competition, but since only five scores are counted of the six man team, they were still in firm control of first place, four minutes ahead of the Swedes. The Spanish team was only 23 seconds away from the Swedes, while the Australian squad was another minute back.

Day Five

The penultimate day of competition was a repeat of the day's one and two trail, although the nasty hill that stopped so many riders was taken out of the course. There were no surprises, and all of the American riders finished the day without major incidents. Club team rider Luca Trussardi, an Italian national who has been living in California and qualified to ride on the American squad, put together a string of good tests in the 125cc class, including a fifth place in the first cross test, and finished the day 15th in class. Trophy Rider Hoess was riding tired but finishing each test consistently, although not happy with is performance. "I can't remember all the corners in the tests; I'm not nailing the corners like I want to," he said, "and then I'm getting tentative, thinking 'uh oh' when I'm going up the blind hills in the rocks." Regardless, he still finished the day 25th in class, out of 79 riders.

Destry Abbott also had a good day, finishing top ten in four of the five tests, finishing ninth in the class for the day. Pearson was close, though off the pace for the day, finishing 14th rider on day five, but still higher in the overall classification. David Pearson (no relation) had been putting together a good ride all week, and finished day five 24th in the 250 Two-Stroke class, and Jason Dahners was 27th. Mika Ahola won the day in that class and had a commanding lead on the class win.

In the 400cc Four-Stroke class Brian Garrahan was still riding strong, seeming better as the week went along in spite of a crash that chipped one of his front teeth. He scored a seventh place in the morning enduro test and finished the day 12th in class. Randy Hawkins, still plugging away on his patched-together WR400 finished 17th and on gold. Stefan Merriman was still killing everybody, with test times you wouldn't believe unless you saw it happen. Meanwhile, he was reportedly suffering from a skin rash due to an allergy, and was having trouble breathing. Imagine how he'd do if he was totally well!

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Strokes, was the exclusive property of Kari Tiainen, as it has been for the past few years. He was being kept honest by Anders Eriksson, who was very close behind, separated by only two seconds at the end of the day. Our top rider in that class was Patrick Garrahan, who was piloting a 520 KTM for the first time and enjoying it. He finished 12th in class for the day; the only other American rider remaining in the class was Junior Trophy rider Cody Mastin, who was 45th in class for the day but still on bronze.

Day Six

And then, on Day Six, we wasted our time. In a mirror image of last year in Portugal, when the final motocross was called off due to scorers being unable to see mud-covered number plates, this year's final test was canceled due to lack of mud. Spain's final motocross test was laid out in a giant mown hay field on army base property in Armilla. It was a flat, featureless, two miles of ribboned-off turns and sixthgear straightaways broken up here and there with abrupt man-made jumps. In a land very similar to Southern California, where real rain is the exception rather than the rule, the mystery of the day was why the track hadn't been watered during the week.

At the start of the first race it was obvious that something would have to be done. Two 125cc motos and two 250 Two-Stroke motos were run, with questionable success. We watched one unidentified rider cartwheel into the crowd in the first 250 moto, and then during the "big" 250 moto of Mika Ahola, Shane Watts, Paul Edmondson, Russ Pearson and Destry Abbott, Pearson misjudged a jump while blinded by dust, and went over the bars at extremely high speed while running about seventh in the moto. He crushed the subframe of his Yamaha and generally bruised himself all over, but remounted to finish the race.

At the start of the first 400cc moto the trouble started. Many of the riders were concerned about conditions on the track, knowing they'd be going faster than any other class, and they flatly refused to ride until the track was watered. The organizers sent the 400cc class back and called the +500 class to the line. The only riders who rolled out to the start were Pat Garrahan, Canadian Guy Perrett, and three Spanish riders. Other riders blocked the gate and a pushing match started between some members of the Italian team and the Spanish team. Meanwhile, one small fire truck had gone out and watered the course briefly, and with the riders somewhat placated the +500s were rolled back into impound and the 400cc riders, including Merriman, Sala, Brian Garrahan and Randy Hawkins lined up for their race. In spite of the watering the start was horrendously dusty. We were watching the first turn and saw Hawkins stop dead in mid pack, blind. "It was horrible. I couldn't see a thing. I was right on the fender of the guy in front of me, and in that first turn he just disappeared," Randy said.

The class was given one lap of the course, and the red flag came out as Merriman, in the lead, rounded the final turn. The riders were sent back to impound and the event was declared over, that the results of day five would stand as the final results. As the riders, team support people, and spectators filed toward the exits only one bike remained on the course, one rider who would ride his moto no matter what. It was Brian Garrahan, and he didn't pull off until they chased him off. Go USA!

"There is no doubt in my mind that the final moto was sabotaged," said Trophy Team manager Drew Smith. "The Spanish Trophy team had nowhere to go but backwards. By throwing out a bunch of tests during the week, the Spanish organizers were able to manipulate the team into a podium position. When that doomed 400 moto went off Merriman could have

pushed Spain right off the podium and carried the Australians up there. I understand that the Italians protested the day before that the final motocross test had to be watered, which the Spanish organizers refused to do. When we got out there Sunday they had a single water truck, that they eventually ran around the course in a show that they were trying to do the right thing, and then when Merriman appeared at the front of the pack in that 400cc moto, they blackflagged the race. If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, man, it's a duck."

Drew Smith wasn't the only person in attendance with that feeling, but once the decision was made to cancel the day "in the interest of safety," the deed was done. "Hey, I don't want to be accused of sour grapes," Smith continued. "Our team had nothing to gain either way, really. It's just a question of what's right. We need some strong leadership at the Six Days to do the right thing. Those guys are out there to win or die. Russ Pearson had a bad crash in a race that didn't matter. He could have come away from that with a crippling injury—all those guys, Merriman, Sala, Ahola—they're risking broken bones or worse on a track where you can't even see your crossbar. When they were getting that moto track ready they certainly had water available, and they didn't provide it."

In the final classification, the Italians won a hard-fought Trophy Team competition, and the Spaniards took the Junior for the third year in a row. Our Trophy team spent the week riding their best and racing more like a team than any other Trophy Team in recent years, but consistently came up short by scant seconds in each test. They finished in tenth, trailing the triumphant Italians by 22 minutes, 49 seconds by the final tally.

Finland had the top finishing club team, with the best American club team effort being logged by the Gerrit Hamilton Memorial team of Jason Dahners, Brian Bennett, and Brian Sperle, finishing sixth. Stefan Merriman took the unofficial overall win, and the win in the 400cc Four-Stroke class. Kari Tiainen won the +500cc class, and Mika Ahola won the 250cc Two-Stroke class. Italian Matteo Rubin won the 250cc Four-Stroke class, the only class with no American riders in it, and the 125cc class was taken by Finnish Trophy rider Juha Salminen. There were 10 gold

medals, 14 silver medals, and seven bronze medals, out of 39 American riders started and 31 finished.

Epiloque

As with every Six days, so much happened to so many people that this story is really inadequate to describe the events of this week. In 6,000 words so far, we haven't yet mentioned that Jeff Fredette proudly carried the flag for the opening ceremonies, riding in his 20th Six Days (he now ties Drew Smith, who also has 20 rides in). We haven't talked about the horror trying to find normal food at normal times in Spain, trying to eat in bars where everyone was smoking as if their heads were on fire. About how Steve Van Zant of Arkansas was riding in his second six days (since Tulsa) and was so happy he walked around grinning "like a possum eatin' yella jackets" all week. About Rich Lafferty, Mike Lafferty's brother, heading over to Six Days with his wife Maria and finishing the week with a silver medal on his Gas-Gas and itching to come back. About the scooter pilots in the city that defied all traffic laws, and about the support team folks in rental cars who drove like serial killers on the lam. Or about Randy Mastin and Cody Mastin, father and son, senior class veteran and 16 year-old rookie, who raced together all week, both finishing with bronze medals. It's all too much to get onto paper. Hopefully, we can show enough photos so you can get a taste of the event, but heed our recommendation: if you like reading about the Six Days, you'll love being there. Save your money, and tune into Trail Rider early in the spring, and we'll tell you how to get to France for the 76th Six Days next August!

Where to see more:

www.gbrothersracing.com—Web site put together by Patrick Garrahan with a personal account of how the week went. Some photos and lots of videos, too. The Garrahans are also going to have a computer CD-ROM of their event experiences available for \$15, probably by the time you read this.

www.amadirectlink.com/amarace/00isde—Web site of the American Motorcyclist Association, put together by Hugh and Connie Flemming. Photos and a little bit of text, results.

www.isdegranada2000.com—official Web site with all the results, interesting English versions of the press releases, etc. ♠



KTM 400RFS

Living with the new KTM thumper, and tuning out the glitches

So we've been riding the KTM 400 all summer long, and after all this experience we think we might have it all dialed in. The two things that really had to be addressed for our rocky, tight, northeastern riding were gearing and suspension. We found that once we had those two things worked out we were 90 percent there.

The first that had to change was the gearing. In our original test of the bike we pointed out that the KTM is geared way too tall for northeastern riding. Our bike came with 14/48 gearing, which may have been wrong anyhow. Some of the literature we saw called for 14/50 gearing; regardless, ours was 14/48. We changed it almost immediately to 14/52 with a set of Sidewinder sprockets and chain, and it felt a lot better. This lowered the theoretical top speed to "only" 97 mph, and we figured we could live with that.

And it was fine, until we got to a particularly nasty section in the Foggy Mountain enduro. Wheel-size jagged rocks and a snake trail through the saplings proved that we couldn't make the KTM go slow enough to be controllable through this section. Everybody-Atkinson, Lafferty, Shenigo-they were all going the same speed, which was a medium-walk. There was no way you could go any faster, the whole trick was staying upright and not stopping. The KTM 400 with 14/52 gearing couldn't go that slow, it wanted to lurch forward every time the clutch was fed out, and lurching was the totally wrong thing to do. Interesting to note that we also got stuck in there, high-centered on a greasy rock, and the bike started boiling over within about 30 seconds. This is the only time we had overheating problems, it seems as long as you keep moving the KTM will keep itself cool. One of the new features of the 2001 KTMs is a slightly larger set of radiators, so the new bikes should be even better.

Back to gearing. We really didn't want to change the countershaft sprocket, because a bigger front sprocket is a whole lot easier on your chain than a smaller one, be we seemed to have no choice. Still, it gave us a chance to try out one of the new stainless steel chains that Sidewinder is making, and we changed to a 13/52 with a Sidewinder chromed-steel sprocket in front, a Sidewinder Stainless on the back, and Sidewinder Stainless chain wrapped between them. This gave us just as low gearing as we could ever want. The bike can walk along in first gear, but with the six speed transmission the upper gears are still as fast as stink. We'd estimate the top speed to be something like 80 mph, which is plenty.

Now a word about the chain. We'd used the Sidewinder Stainless sprockets before and know that they resist wear like nothing we've ever seen. We put on the new stainless steel chain not knowing what to expect, but sure enough the first chance we got to



It was pretty when it was new.... We've been flogging the KTM in mud all summer, and are very pleased with the reliability and tuning. We haven't touched the jetting, and are still using the original spark plug!



Coolest change on the bike: We took a pair of Enduro Engineering footpegs and cut them apart, then welded them together with a half-inch lower profile than stock. The bike feels so much better we're considering lowering the footpeg mounts on the frame another half inch. Right: The stock fender was ugly, and it does a lousy job of keeping mud off your face, so we replaced it with an Acerbis '99 KTM fender.

ride the bike was in a two day trail ride in New York, almost the entire time in the pouring rain. There's no way, we thought, that this chain can take this punishment, not on the first day. So we checked the chain at the lunch stop on day one. No problem. Didn't stretch a bit. Checked it at the end of the day. Still no stretch. Whoa, this wasn't right, not on a new chain, but there it was. The acid test was the second day, where it poured all day long and we rode the whole course. At the end of the day it was just slightly looser than it was when we started, so it had worn a little, but it still wasn't enough to bother adjusting it.

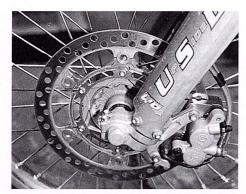
This is seriously good chain wear. Nothing against the old Sidewinder Gold chain, but we know that we'd have to adjust a new Gold chain at the end of the first day of riding, wet or dry, because it "stretches" or wears-in a little right away. After that it may be fine for quite a while. But the stainless chain didn't even do that! We're impressed; for the extra \$30 or so the stainless chain is well worth it.

So with the gearing and driveline all worked out, we

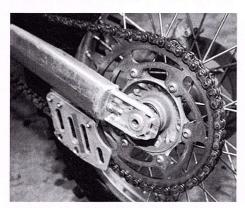




started thinking about the suspension. We'd ridden the KTM in the NETRA Monahan enduro in the spring, and liked it okay. The stock suspension seemed a little firm, but it worked well. The curious thing about it was that try as we might, there was no way to bottom-out either the forks or the shock. We figured the reason it felt firm is because it was only getting about three-quarters travel. We checked this theory out with Drew Smith of Works Enduro Rider and he confirmed that the stock valving was set up really stiff. It seemed, he said, that the WP engineers had taken last year's two-stroke valving and just doubled the values



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of all the shims. It didn't need valving that stiff, and Drew said we should feel it worse in the rear.

So for the sake of experimentation we sent only the rear shock up to WER, and had them re-valve it to what they figured it needed. They installed their valving and one of their special bladder caps on the reservoir, doing away with the floating piston system. The rubber bladder is reputed to be more responsive than the piston, and Drew promised the shock would be much more supple than stock.

He was right. The back end now went to full stroke and soaked up everything. For rocky riding we settled on three clicks from zero on compression and had a bike that would bottom out only on a G-out ditch or a really square hit. And that's exactly what we wanted it to do. Trouble was, with the back end working fine. now the front end felt bad. Actually bad isn't the word. It felt horrible. Here's what was going on: the stock rear shock was set up really stiff, so to balance it the stock forks were valved really stiff. But, the stock back end was SO stiff that the stock forks actually felt soft. Once we got the back end to go up and down freely the stock front end refused to budge. It was hideous. The bike wouldn't turn and the forks pogoed off of any rock or root they hit.

"I thought they might do that," Drew told us on the phone, "but it's always best to actually feel it so you know how bad it can be. You want us to re-valve the forks?"

We immediately sent the forks up, had him do his re-valve on them, and got them back by Friday. Hung them back on the bike, with the top of the fork caps flush with the top of the triple clamps, and added 16 clicks of compression damping. The rebound was set at whatever it needed-10 clicks or so. Suddenly the bike felt great. Firm enough to hold the bike and a 200 pound rider up, and supple enough to soak up rocks and roots without punishing said rider. Wonderful! So



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the message is that the stock bike is supple enough in the early part of the travel to feel okay, but if you look real closely you'll find that you're only getting partial travel, because overall the suspension valving is too stiff—it's not the springs. We're still using the stock springs. Revalved to use all of the suspension travel, the bike is much more comfortable and responsive.

While this was going on, we spent some time riding with Drew and Chris Smith. Drew was very helpful with setting the adjustments right on the forks and shocks, and Chris rode the bike and was very impressed with how it worked (and everybody likes the electric start). But, one thing Chris said got us thinking. He rode the bike and said, "That's really a nice bike, but I think I'd lower the footpegs on it. I feel like I'm sitting up too tall." We had had the same feeling, and we talked about it for a while. Chris pointed out that there was plenty of room on the frame to cut

the stock footpeg brackets off and re-locate the pegs, but we were a little squeamish about welding on that fine KTM frame. He shrugged and said he wouldn't think twice about it (keep in mind Chris built his own XR250 frame last year), but if we didn't want to do that he could always lower the footpegs a little and see what it felt like. We had a set of Enduro Engineering's Burley pegs on it, and there was room to cut them up and lower the cage about five-eighths of an inch relative to the pivot, so we turned the pegs over the Chris and let him weld on them.

What an interesting result. With the lower pegs on the bike suddenly we could grip the tank better with our knees, and it felt like there was more room between the handlebars and the pegs, which, of course, there was. It was only five-eighths of an inch, but that was enough to make it a little easier to make the stand/sit transition and we felt a little more "into"

When Only The

Best Will Do

the bike, instead on "on it." It feels a lot better to ride. We'll probably stop there, but given the time and proximity to a really good welder we would seriously consider dropping the footpeg mounts a whole inch on the frame. We'll bet this makes the KTM feel a lot lower and much easier to move around on, actually more "Husaberg-like," because the 'Bergs have a very low footpeg position. You might not want to consider anything this radical, though, if you have small feet, because significantly lower pegs are going to move you away from the shifter pivot. Don't do it at all unless you have the services of a really good welder.

The reason we were using the Enduro Engineering pegs is because we snapped off the stock cast-steel pegs the first time we tried to wrap them around a log. You wouldn't be able to weld on the stock pegs anyhow. Like we said in the original test, we wound up putting on the entire complement of Enduro Engineering protectors for this bike—hand guards, clutch slave cylinder guard, chain guide, needle-bearing clutch lever, braided steel clutch hose and pegs. Interesting story about the clutch hose: We got the hose, then let it sit in the van for months, with no time to mess with it. Then finally, one GNCC we wound up ripping the stock clutch hose out of the master cylinder, and hey presto, no clutch. We could hear Al Randt saying "I told you that was going to happen."

We also tried a clutch lever sold by Gary from Holeshot in Ohio. Gary makes a two-finger lever that's pretty cool, with the needle bearing pivot and all that. The Enduro Engineering lever is a full-hand lever, just like stock. It's all in what you prefer.

On the brakes, we were fortunate to be in the right place at the right time, and got into a testing gig with EBC. Gary from EBC called and said, "We're just finishing with our KTM oversized front brake kit, can you try it out and tell us if we've got it right?" Sure, we'll try anything. The kit bolted right on with no trouble, all they needed to add was the extra hole in the bracket for the enduro computer sensor. They were concerned about the fit, but we were most impressed with the way the big brake worked. It is nice! Just a little stronger than stock, maybe 20 percent stronger, and very progressive. It wasn't grabby at all, really smooth and really strong. We never thought we'd be recommending an oversize brake kit for an enduro bike, but we heartily recommend this.

For the back brake, we right away installed a Mud Racing solid rotor. Stock rotors with holes or slots in them are nothing but pad death in the mud—you'll be lucky to get one muddy ride out of your pads. Solid rotors will easily quadruple the life of your pads.

Everything else done to the KTM was basically appearance items. Frankly, we can't stand the 2000 "Darth Vader" front fender, so we took it off and put a '99 model Acerbis front fender on instead. The '99 model fender doesn't throw as much mud in your face, so it's also a practical change as well as cosmetic. It's also easier to tape an enduro score card in place with the old style fender. While we were changing plastic, we put on one of the new Acerbis overand-under dual halogen headlights. It's pretty cool looking, and it also fits over the WER steering damper without modification.

That's about it for major changes. What we have now is a KTM 400 set up for rough eastern conditions, and it works great. We've been changing the oil about every fourth ride and it always comes out clean, and changing the oil filters about every ten rides or so. Everything still works fine on it, including the electric start and the battery. We've had no clutch problems, nothing has loosened up, all in all the bike has been completely bulletproof. It's a fine machine, and one we've been very happy to be playing with this year. •

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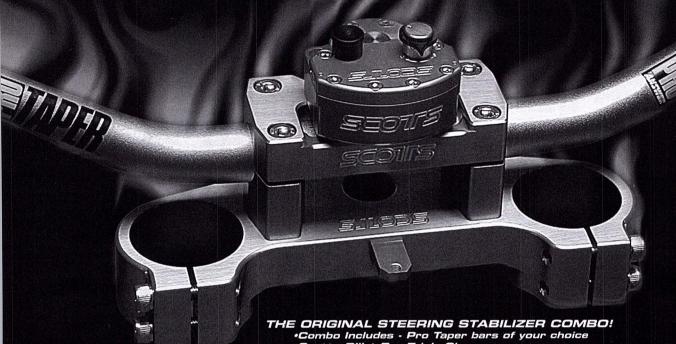
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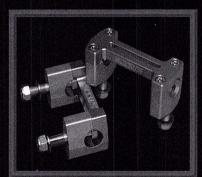
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STARTIN' SETRA

Gravitt gets the jump on the new season

Cracker Enduro Round 1, Union Point, GA 8/27

TM's Allen Gravitt got the 2000/2001 season off to a good start winning the Cracker enduro. round 1 of the 15 race SETRA series. Gravitt posted a score of 16, four points better than runner up Doug Deaton. "I felt pretty good. I haven't ridden much during the off months, and I only had about 15 miles on my 200. I was pleased with my score, I feel I could have shaved a few points off here and there," said Gravitt. Gravitt faced some pretty stiff competition. Two time SETRA enduro champ and Gas Gas team member Franklin Ramey III is racing again after a year off due to extensive knee surgery. Franklin

posted an impressive 20, a score that put him in a three way tie for second overall. "I felt good today, I never tried to push it, just rode a smart safe race. I want to get my knee back in shape. It feels good to be back riding," said Ramey. Also on hand was Rod Stuckey, SETRA's number two man in the hare scrambles series. Stuckey is going to try his hand at enduros this year and he also finished with a 20, putting him in the three way tie.

Durhamtown plantation, located in small Union Point. Georgia, hosted the enduro. with the Georgia Crackers club actually running the race. Last season, this race nabbed Enduro of the Year awards. It is first class all the way. Durhamtown is a hunting plantation with several thousand beautifully wooded acres just begging to be ridden in. The facilities are excellent and the

owners go out of their way to make the riders feel at home. The race was short by most standards, less than 50 miles. That's not to say it was easy-those 50 were all woods, no roads. Six sections, three before the gas and three after challenged the riders, and overcast skies kept the temps down to the high 80s, a far cry from the 100-degree weather the area had seen in the previous week . The cloudy skies held a chance for rain, most hoped it would hold off before the race ended. It didnn't. Around noon it came down hard and turned perfect trails into a mudfest, where making it through the trail was an accomplishment.

The first section was the longest at 13 miles. Gravitt showed his tight woods prowess by posting the fast time with a four. Stuckey, Ramey, Stephen

Edmondson, Four-Stroke A rider Jeff Harris, and Senior A riders Doug Deaton and Terry Hughes all dropped five points. A brief reset and into another tight section. This one was a little shorter at 6 miles. There were a lot of switchbacks and even a rock or two to be found. This time Gravitt dropped a three with Ramey and Hughes matching the SETRA champ. Former AA rider Steven Smith and newly promoted AA Mitch McRee would both dropped four. McRee was top A rider last season. He normally rides a KTM 300 and had a new 520 on order, but the new bike didn't make it by race time. He rode a much different 125SX, borrowed from Gravitt. The remaining AA's as well as top A riders dropped four. The last



Allen Gravitt got himself a good jump on the season by winning the round one Cracker enduro, and posting second overall at the Long Cane.

section before the gas was tight but short. Once again Gravitt dominated with a 1-point loss, followed by two's from the other top contenders.

After the gas it was on to a tough 7 miles. It started with a restart and the trail seemed to give the B and C riders the most trouble. That trouble lay in the form of a hill a few yards from the restart. It wasn't steep but was littered with loose rocks. Quite a few bikes threw chains and created a bottlenecks as riders searched for ways around those stuck.

It was close to lunch by now, and the overcast skies gave way to rain. It started out light but soon turned into a downpour. Gravitt and 250A rider Steve Saunders were the only riders to drop three. Most of the top riders were dropping four's and five's.

The remaining 14 miles of the race was divided into

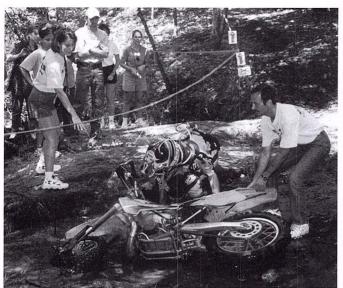


Terry Hughes surprised everyone, even himself, by winning the Long Cane overall. He deserved it!



All it takes is one little hill to give riders fits.

three checks. A going-in, with a check in the middle and a check-out. The scores were guite varied. The rains were coming down hard and row choice came into play. Ramey had the fast time at check 9 with a two, followed by Deaton with a three, Gravitt, Stuckey, Edmondson and Smith a four, Masencup, McRee and Hughes dropped five. The final check was easier . It was still raining, just not as hard and the trail more open and faster. Gravitt, Stuckey and Edmondson would lose a minute. Ramey, Masencup. Smith, McRee and Hughes were down two, Deaton



The creek section at Long Cane is a classic, and it can be mighty slippery, as this rider found out.



A rare photo of the author himself, and what he was doing when he should have been taking pictures. Photo of Kenny King by Erica Gossett.

came into the final check three minutes down. At the end, Gravitt's 16 got him the win, with Ramey, Deaton and Stuckey all tied with 20. Senior A rider Deaton nabbed the two spot on tiebreakers followed by Stuckey, and Ramey

Long Cane Enduro Round 3, Abbeville, SC

he South Carolina woods would be the setting for the third round in the SETRA enduro series, the Long Cane. Held just outside Abbeville, the Long Cane is always a fun, challenging race. Put on by the Long Cane enduro riders and held in the Sumter National Forest, they managed to get two new sections in, making the total of the race close to 60 miles. It was a tougher race than past events, due to the new trail, and it didn't end as most expected.

Current champ Allen Gravitt on his KTM 200 knew his main competition would come from Husaberg rider Michael Grizzle. Grizzle finished last season strong and had his sights set on both a championship and Gravitt. When both riders finished the final check this week. thev each

dropped 14 points, a tie. It looked like Gravitt had the better tiebreakers and would get the win. Here's where the surprise came in. Senior A rider Terry

3. Mel Smith 250 R 1. Adam Haskall

2. Ty Shiply 3. Carter Haskall 200 B

1. Jeremy Harbin 2. Andrew Bobbitt

3. Mark Threlked 4 Stroke B

1. Mark Hutchinson 2. Mark McKenzie 3. Robert Ledford

Onen C 1. John Fisher

200 C

1. Heath Lee:

3. Steve Alley.

4 Stroke C

2. Mathew Gillard

1. Lee Stephens 2. Steve Saunders 2. Steve Augustine 3. Brent Mercer 3. Chris Ingle 200 A 250 C

1. Russell Epley 1. Ronnie Beatson 2. Dusty Tindell 2. Trey Cail 3. Travis Hayes 3. Rhea Haskell

4 Stroke A 1 .leff Harris

Cracker Enduro

Overall Champion

Class Results

Allen Gravitt

1. Rod Stuckey

3. Stephen

Open A

250 A

Edmondson

1. Mike Douglas

2. Mark Thompson

3. Dwight Sutphin

2. Franklin Ramey III

ΔΔ

2. Scott Miller 2. Russell Arant

Open B 1. Mike Bradshaw

1 Robert Thurman 2. Gene Zobel 2. Michael Lafollette 3. Ken Conover Vet A

1. Steve Moore 2. Jeff Burchfeil 3 Tim Akins

Vet B 1. Shane Sexton 2. Clint Johnson

3. Roy Wood Vet C

1. Greg Armour 2. Lance Ott 3. Drew Richev Senior A

1. Doug Deaton 2. Terry Hughes 3. Neal Hamilton

Senior B 1. Phil Fllie 2. Al Hubbard

> 3. Eddie Royals Senior C 1. Gary Overton

2. Herb Coleman 3. Keith Smith Super Senior A

1. Robert Neeley 2. Joe Royal

3. Frank Schoenbeck Super Senior B

. Gerald Jones 2. George Noxon 3. Gary Bishop

Super Senior C 1. Shot Goodman

2. Steve Stansel 3. David Goins Master A

1. John Fero 2. Johnny Thomas Master B

1. Ron Miller 2. Michael Thompson

3. Steve Stirewalt Master C

1. Norbert Nall

2. Kenny Hardee 3. Wayne Meradith

Golden Master A 1. Bruce Triplett 2. Fred Hammond

Golden Master B 1. James Bransford

2. Mike Garrett 3. Paul McDonald

Hughes (Blue Ridge cycles, MSR, Silkolene, Tsubaki) was taking his card to be checked and ran into Valerie Grizzle. (Michael Grizzle's wife and main pit person.)

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"So How did you do?" asked Valerie, "Dropped 13." was Hughes' reply. "It looks like you got overall." said Valerie. "Come on, how did everybody really do, don't kid!" said Hughes.

Hughes just didn't believe he had gotten his first ever overall win. Not bad for a 44 year old Senior rider. "No doubt my race went good, I just had no idea I had won," said Hughes. "I drove all night to get to the race and had to sign up on row 52. With that late of a row I just tried to ride as fast as I could, I just never considered I had won. I suppose everything just fell together. I tell you, seeing the OA next to my name was the biggest shock I have had since I started riding. I just had to wait till I was 44 to get one." Hughes is fast any way you look at it, but over the summer he worked out, dropped a few pounds, and got off his 250 and on to a Yamaha YZ125 (His first time on one since the '70s). It looks like all that hard work paid off. Gravitt would just have to settle for second with Grizzle taking third.

Four sections were used, two before the gas and two after, with several miles of road connecting the sections. From the start riders went into the woods and the first new section. The woods were tight and freshly cut in spots and riders on early rows had some difficulty finding trail. The section was 8 miles long. The AA's dropped threes here, this is where Hughes got them, he managed a two. Hughes' late row could have been a slight advantage in some of the new stuff, at least he could see the trail better. The AA's were all between rows 20 and 30.

A little reset and into a long trail before the gas. The trails the club uses have been used for years and are pretty established. They run them backwards and with bits of new added each year, but they still get pretty beat up. The section was 14 miles long, the longest of the race. This time Gravitt. Grizzle and Hughes all matched scores with a five point loss. Florida enduro champion Ashley Brewer on his Kawasaki 250 just missed a five and came into the outcheck a few seconds into a 6. The race had covered about 30 miles before the gas, with the two pointstaking sections.

The gas was a good break, with 22 miles of trail coming after. The third check-in led into another new section, the second longest of the day at 12 miles. Most of it was trail that hadn't been used in years

with some fresh cut connecting things up. Grizzle, Hughes and Brewer all dropped two each, with Gravitt dropping three. It seems Gravitt had some passing problems in the tight trees and lost those few valuable seconds

What he lost in section three he made up for in the last trail of the day. That section, a 9 miler, was an old trail ran backwards. It had a nice creek to ride down that was lined with spectators. The creek was no problem for the A guys, but some B and C riders

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Long Cane Enduro

Class Results Terry Hughes **Overall Champion**

2. Mike Fraser Four Stroke B

1. Mark McKenzie 2. Mark Hutchinson 3. Robert Ledford

1. Ryan Crist 2 Lee Stenhens 3 Jason Moody 200 A 250 C

1. Russell Epley 2. Martin Pruett 3. Dusty Tindell Four Stroke A

AA

Onen A

250 A

1. Allen Gravitt

2. Michael Grizzle

3. Ashley Brewer

1. Mike Martin

2. Trey Welborn

3. Joey Rowland

1. Jeff Harris 2. Scott Miller 3. Phill Simms

Open B 1. Lon Buysman

2. Gene Zobel 3. Bruce Yarborough 250 B

1. Danny Ruhling 2. David Croot 3. Adam Haskall

200 B 1. George Miller

3. Andrew Bobbitt

Open C

1. John Kennedy 2. John Pisher 3. Dan Sampson

1. Rhea Haskell 2. Chris Dunn 3. Tony Newman

200 C 1. Bryan Henson; 2. Heath Lee

3.Robbie Overstreet Four Stroke C 1. Scott Watkins

2. Troy Yarbrough

3. Paul Harrell

Vet A

1. Steve Henson 2 Steve Moore

2. Bobby Pearson Vet B

1. Shane Sexton 2. David Holbrook 3. Jack McDonough

Vet C 1. John Wilson

2. Greg Armour 3. Lance Ott Senior A

1. Neal Hamilton 2. Arty Spencer 3. Ricky Dennis

Senior B 1. Pooner Powell 2. Kenneth King 3. Phil Ellis

Senior C 1. Keith Smith 2. J.K. Thomas 3. Anthony Lewis

Super Senior A 1. Frank Schoenbeck Super Senior B

1. Gerald Jones

2. George Noxon

3. Gary Bishop Super Senior C

1. Steve Stansel 2. Benny Hamby 3. William Durham

Master A 1. Jim Ford 2. Wayne Beaty 3. Robert Cox Master B

1. Pat Golden 2. Steve Stirewalt 3. Robert Brendle

Master C 1. Frank Amos 2. Ray Cotton

3. Kenny Hardee Golden Master A

1. Bruce Triplett 2. Fred Hammond 3. George Yount

Golden Master B 1 Fisher Campbell

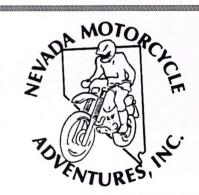
2. James Bransford 3. Joe Terry

found out about deep spots and got a bath. Luckily it came right at the end of the race. Gravitt posted the fast time with a 3:56, with Hughes, Grizzle and Brewer all dropping fours.

Hughes has added a little more competition to an already close AA class (even though as of now he is a Senior A rider). SETRA has a rule that if you overall two races you go AA, and Hughes is well on his way. This has the potential to be the tightest season in years, with everyone gunning for Allen Gravitt. 1







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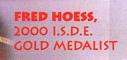
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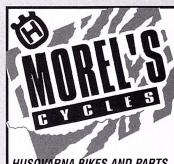
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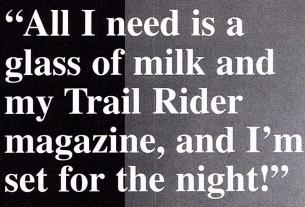
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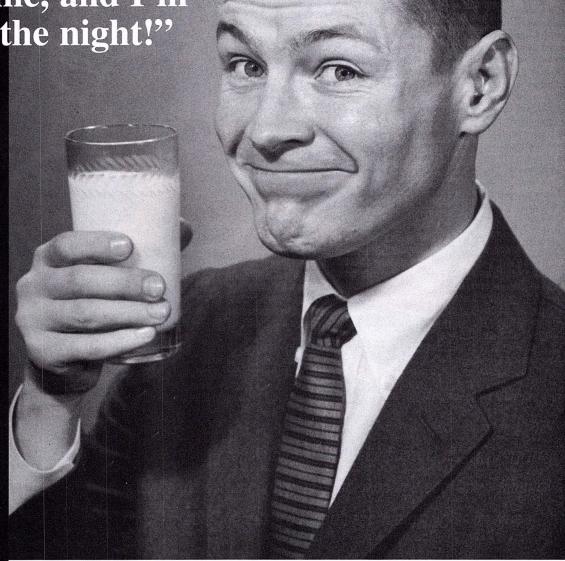
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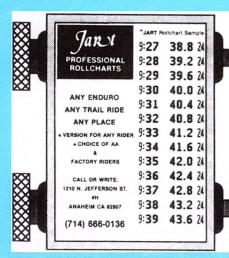
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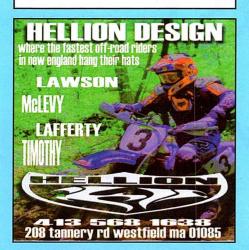
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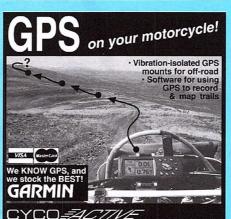




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Hertfelder

by Ed Hertfelder

Work At It

This is going to sound like an "Ain't Hertfelder Great?" pat on the back, but it's actually a political statement. What prompts me to take finger to keyboard is all the commotion with the Presidential Election - which was two days ago. Already I'm hearing that the

Fern Enduro. Seeing an opportunity to show the better side of motorcycles I suggested we stop for lunch here and inside of three minutes riders and hikers were sharing extra water and granola bars.

The icebreaker was when I asked each of the riders where they lived and, of course, they were all

doing a good job when they asked me to share lunch at their stop at Batsto. When they sent me a check for forty dollars, for gas, I KNEW I had done

Last year, here in Arizona, I signed the van and myself up as one of the "sag wagons" for the popular Tour De Tucson, a grueling bicycle race looping well out into the desert with the start and finish at

the University of Arizona.

Again, the Honda sat strapped to one side of the van while I trucked the bleeding riders and their broken steeds to the next aid station. I've seen some serious enduro-type briar cuts and mashed toes but nothing compares to the butcher shop look of a downhill bicycle get-off wearing shorts and a tee shirt on a concrete highway.

Also, last year I used the van, with motorcycle aboard, to put in ALL the mileage markers for the TUCSON MARATHON run. Because these markers are so prized I had to start putting them along the

course at four a.m.! Just a minute ago Pam Reed called and said she had someone else volunteer to do the 2000 event. This makes me happy because I almost froze solid last year driving along with my side doors open so we could jump out easier to drive in the steel stakes.

Here's my suggestions for gaining voters ON OUR SIDE iust in case there is a proposal on the town ballot to ban motorcycles from the local

If you meet horseback riders on the trail shut down the engine and take your helmet off because, I've been told, helmets spook horses. A smile and a nod of appreciation toward a well-maintained animal can go a long way.

Anytime you're traveling with a motorcycle on a truck or trailer and you see a car in trouble on the side of the road stop and spend a few minutes. Repairing a split radiator hose with a few wraps of duct tape will definitely place another voter on our side.

And for Christ's sake register and vote, because, as we're finding out, EVERY VOTE DOES COUNT.

-Ed Hertfelder

Ed Hertfelder is a teller of tales and writer of books, as well as author of the globally famous Duct Tapes stories. Like to have a list of Hertfelder columns from 1986? Ask nice with a S.A.S.E. to Ed's ranch at P.O. Box 17564, Tucson, AZ 85731; or E-mail to ducttapes@yahoo.com. •

"It only takes ONE brain-dead rider on a straight-pipe vee-twin running wide open in low gear at 3:30 a.m. to antagonize THOUSANDS of citizens against all motorcycles."

Florida recount is taking too long. This complaint is from people who are driven to TV studios by uniformed limo drivers so they don't waste ANY of THEIR valuable time waiting for a bus.

As I write, CNN is talking about an irate Florida group starting a lawsuit to get their mis-cast votes changed to who they THOUGHT they were voting for. What are we going to call this? Voting by MEN-TAL TELEPATHY? Or maybe, READ MY MIND?

They're also mentioning a ballot box that was, somehow, overlooked in a church. Even I can do better than THAT. How's about an 18 wheeler full of Florida ballot boxes driven by a crazed MODERATE to a paper recycling plant outside Metuchen, New Jersey?

Besides, overlooking a ballot box in a church would be like overlooking an aspirin bottle in the toe

That title up there, Work At It, refers to what I, and all of us, should do to keep trail riding from becoming a political issue. It only takes ONE brain-dead rider on a straight-pipe vee-twin running wide open in low gear at 3:30 a.m. to antagonize THOUSANDS of citizens against all motorcycles. The next time a proposal to ban motorcycles from the Township Park comes up for a vote, these folks will remember the clown who woke them from a deep sleep one morning and RETALIATE. The voters have to be convinced that not all motorcycles are loud enough to break ear drums and are ridden by REAL people, not some twisted simpleton looking for attention.

Illustration: In New Jersey I joined a large hiking group, all ages but leaning to the 50+ persuasion and certainly 100 percent voters. These folks were almost convinced that trails were made by God to be WALKED on and were totally against trail riding of ANY KIND. Motorized, of course, but they were against even bicycles, and one day went bananas with a fellow who was running break-in mileage with some young sled dogs pulling a sled with wheels.

Then, one day around noon with maybe six miles behind us, we walked around a bend and there were four riders taking a break from laying out the Curly from the same towns as the hikers. Or used to live in the same towns, or went to the same schools, and before you knew it they were acting like long lost cousins.

The main thing was, these hikers no longer thought motorcycle trail riders were all recently released felons looking to nail girls to trees anytime soon. And I discovered that trail riders clean up real nice.

Later, when I went hiking with the group, I always took my motorcycle along inside my van and some of them saw the advantage in having a way to enjoy the woodlands even with a badly sprained ankle.

That outdoor club was closely tied with a bicycle club that ran races along the little used blacktop roads of the Pine Barrens and I signed on me and my van as the "sag wagon"-a pickup for the disabled, dehydrated or merely depressed. Again, I had my Honda in the van and the riders who

needed my services could SEE just where I was coming from. When I mentioned that almost every good off-road motorcycle rider used a mountain bike to keep their juices flowing between scheduled events I wasn't just blowing smoke. I knew I was

STAINLESS CHAIN

It's hard to make anything new and exciting in chains and sprockets, but Sidewinder's done it again!

Vic Krause of Sidewinder summed up his reasoning behind this new product as simply as he could. "Basically, we've had great success with our stainless steel sprockets, so I took it to the obvious conclusion and decided to create a stainless steel chain. Why? Because we want to sell chains and sprockets to everyone, and there's a lot of competition out there," Krause said. "How are you going to grab people if a dozen different companies are hotly competing with each other? I'll tell you how, you take the bit in your mouth and build something better than the rest of them."

It was a phone conversation, and Krause had us interested, "Send us a piece of that chain, and let's see what it can do," we told him. He went on to explain its construction. "The side plates are made out of stainless. The pins and rollers are made out of chromoly steel. The chromoly is actually better for the pins, it has less bending resistance than the stainless we could have used in its place. I wanted to make the rollers out of stainless as well. but that would have taken the price over the top—it doesn't make sense to build a chain that nobody can afford to buy. Instead, we heat treated the rollers and pins to a higher Rockwell index, a higher degree of hardness. What we wound up with is a superior chain, with side plates that won't rust or wear, and pins and rollers that make the chain tougher than anything else we've ever manufactured, at a price that's maybe \$20 higher than a standard chain, when the smoke clears."

Okay, enough of the marketing hype. When the chain arrived we were struck first by the color of it, all silver rather than the anodized gold color we gotten used to on most chains. Cool looking. We combined with a new smaller countershaft sprocket and wrapped it all around the 52-tooth stainless sprockets we'd had on the bike for the past four months. The rear sprocket showed areas between the teeth where the brushed finish had been smoothed down, but there was still no wear showing on

the teeth, and no hooking at all. With it all adjusted to spec, we closed the garage and looked forward to the next ride.

As it turned out, the next ride would be a real acid test. We've been having a very wet summer here in the northeast, and the next time the newly-shod bike was rolled out was for the Ridge Riders' dual sport, which was two days of rain and abrasive mud. Wonderful! We were a little nervous about riding on a new chain in this kind of weather, since the bad weather would accelerate the normal break-in time. After all, when the previous chain was put on this bike, it needed an adjustment after a half-day of riding, and that chain was a Sidewinder Gold. We expect-

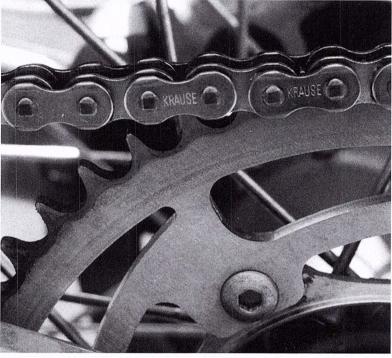
ed no less from the stainless chain, at least until it wore-in, and pledged to keep an eye on it.

And we watched it, every time we stopped. Look down, make sure the counter-shaft nut was still on, flip the chain with a couple of fingers and see if it moved. Nothing. Every time we checked it, it looked the same. At the end of the day, it was still tight enough that it didn't deserve attention. This was strange. All new chains needed to be adjusted after a day of riding at most, and this one was still fine after

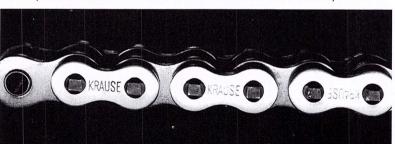
a day in the mud!

Okav, if that was the way it wanted to play, we'd play that way. The next day we started in the rain, without even toughing the chain with any lube. Rode all day, sometimes in a heavy downpour, and ignore the chain for the whole day. At the end of the ride, the chain was just loose enough to be adjusted, about what a normal chain would need after a halfday of dry break-in. Still, we left it alone, and rode another 20 miles in the sand the next weekend before we finally tightened the chain. How much? About a halfturn on the chain adjuster bolts. That's it.

Well, that's the kind of performance that will make a believer out of you. We were already convinced about the longevity of the new Sidewinder stainless steel sprockets, after using one on a KTM 200 for a year. Now Sidewinder has stainless steel chain, and from what we've seen in two weekends of riding, it's another winner. Keep in mind that, with chromoly pins and rollers you can still get rust on this chain, so it's just as necessary to lube it—the best time to lube it is right before you wash the bike (makes it harder to get water past the orings and into the important part of the chain), and the night before you ride it. Right after a ride is good too, since that's when the chain is at its warmest, but not if it was a wet ride. Give the chain a few days to dry out first (since if



A bulletproof combination for the mud: Sidewinder stainless steel chain and sprockets.



Quad-staked pins are new on the stainless chain, and add greatly to the overall strength.

you lube a wet chain, you may be trapping water inside).

The stainless steel gear costs more, that's the only drawback. But, if you get many times the life out of a stainless sprocket, does it really cost more? No, it costs less. The same goes for the stainless chain. If this chain lasts as long as it appears to, Krause has a bullet-proof combination on his hands.

Sidewinder is offering package prices on sprocket and chain combinations, and we recommend the stainless steel wholeheartedly. Get in touch with Krause Racing/Sidewinder at 630-513-1000 and fine out how much it is for your bike. Whatever it is, it's worth it in the long run.

